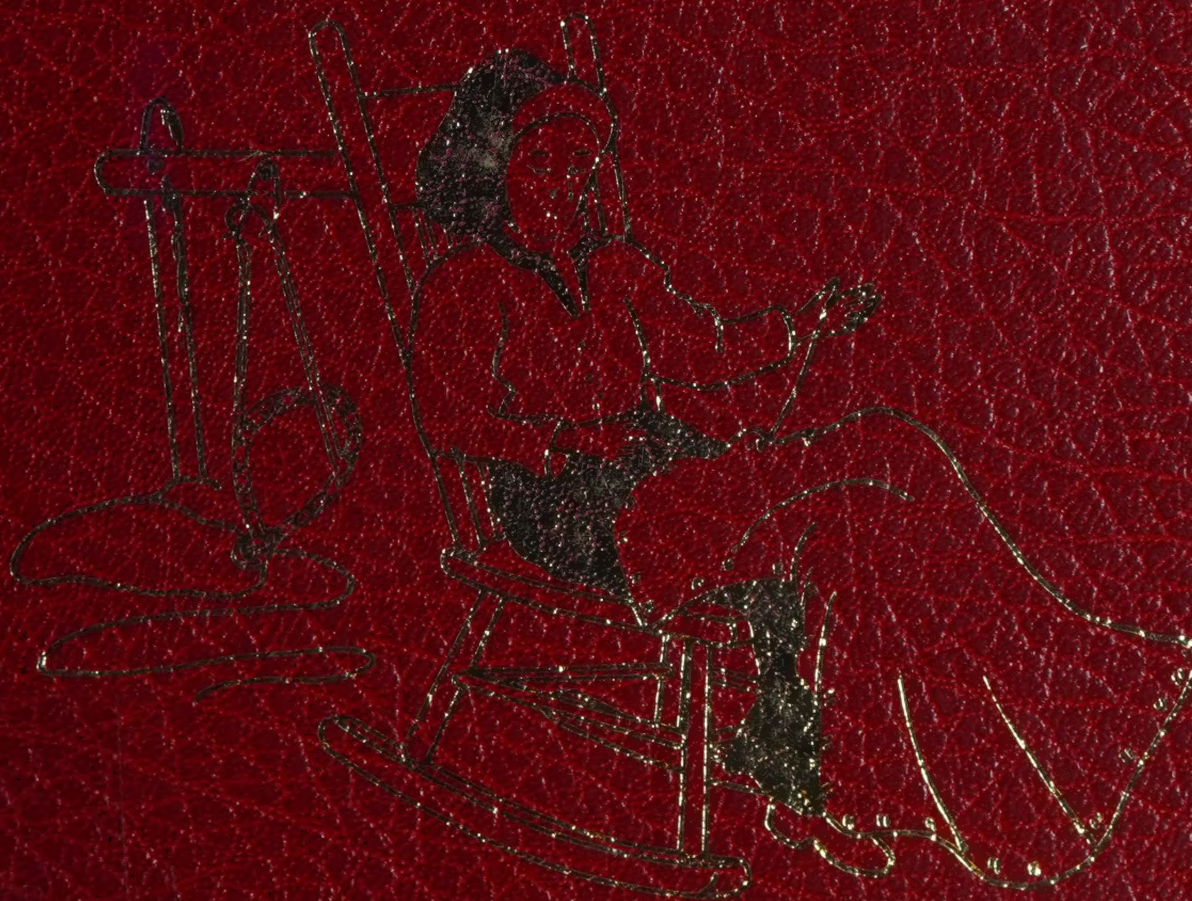




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Homstitches and Hackamores



A HISTORY OF HOLDEN AND DISTRICT



ERNEST BROWN
PHOTO (# 325)

Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Sherburne on the homestead about 1898. Photo courtesy of Provincial Museum and Archives.



LOG SHACK AND OX TEAM

FILE COPY
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT GRANT
GIVEN FOR THIS PUBLICATION

Hemstitches and Hackamores



A HISTORY OF HOLDEN AND DISTRICT

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Dedication

We dedicate this history book to those who endured unbelievable hardships to shape this progressive community; to those who are here working to improve life; and to those that follow who choose to make this their home.



Congratulations Holden!

Preface

What! Another book? Yes, the Holden Historical Society planned to publish a book concerning the history of our community, even though the Book of Books states, "of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

Surely this book is a bit different. It consists of the material supplied by you, the people of the community past and present. It covers an era of meager beginnings in a vast open country with no conveniences, but with pioneers who had a strong determination to make the best of what the future could provide. It tells of an educational system that moved from the smallest one room school to ever larger educational units; the time of oxen and walking plows to complete mechanization; two world wars in which our comrades gave all for our freedom; a period of no taxes and prairie trails to better roads and heavier taxation; and days of bare necessities to days of luxury.

Certainly to live again with the pioneers of the past, old community friends, school chums, neighbours and acquaintances through the reading of this

book, much pleasure should be derived. By discovering the state of our community in the earliest years, the hearty spirit of the pioneers with their dedication to their new country and home, their hardships, their times of sorrow, their days of joy, we are made to appreciate our present prosperity.

Read for yourself about the spirit of the early pioneers, compare it to the spirit of life today. Find again the paths of old friends with whom you so easily lost contact because of the passage of time and much moving about.

The history of our community is challenging, sobering, heartening, yet laughable. Deeply woven in the pages you will find the pioneers' constant goal — Freedom.

So now, after many dedicated hours of working together as a committee, we humbly submit to you the past and present of our community. May the reading of this book be a pleasure and an encouragement along our pathway of life, and may it help us all to be evermore grateful.

The Holden History Book Committee

Acknowledgements

Hemstitches and Hackamores is the product of the combined efforts of many people. Beginning with a meeting of a number of those interested, the decision was made to write the history of Holden and area. This took place in the Senior Citizens' Drop In Centre; the back room of which became a second home to many dedicated volunteers who worked unstintingly for three years. The History Book Committee wishes to thank those who accepted office, took on the responsibility of research, editing, typing, proofreading, filing and numerous other tasks that had to be done before the book was published.

To those who sent in their stories and photographs we give sincere thanks. We regret that many people did not respond to our brochure, this leaves a gap in the history of our community.

The compiling of this type of book is bound to have errors because stories from word of mouth may become distorted over the years. Had this been written earlier, a much more accurate picture could have been presented. We regret any errors or omissions

that may have occurred in spite of checking and rechecking by many dedicated people.

We give special thanks:

— to the Holden Seniors' Club for use of their premises during the compiling of this book;

— to the Homecoming Committee for Holden's 75th Anniversary who combined the celebration with the launching of the book;

— for financial support received from: New Horizons Program (Health & Welfare Canada), Alberta Culture, Lutheran Church Women, St. Gregory's Catholic Womens League, St. Mary's Community Association, United Church Women, Adams Community Centre, Holden BPO Elks, Holden Royal Purple, Holden Chamber of Commerce, Holden Recreation Board, those who gave memorials and individual donations;

— to Provincial and Dominion Government Archives, Legislative Library, County of Beaver, Village of Holden office, other Government departments, and companies who provided information.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

The only thing constant in the world today is change - a change in rules, government, technology, lifestyles and expectations. To keep abreast of the changes is a challenge to us - to remind us of that which is past is a task for voluntary community groups such as The Holden Historical Society.

It is through the publishing of history books that we can keep alive the memories of our heritage, and future generations can appreciate the dedicated work and sacrifices made by their ancestors so we could enjoy the high standards of living we now have.



John Batiuk, M.L.A.

Congratulations to The Holden Historical Society on their successful project to record the history of Holden and District. It is fitting that this history coincide with Holden's 75th Anniversary and I extend best wishes to all readers for many hours of enjoyable reading.

J. Batiuk

John S. Batiuk, M.L.A.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

The Honourable Don Mazankowski, P.C., M.P.



Don Mazankowski, M.P.

O T T A W A
1 9 8 4

I am happy to send my greetings and congratulations to the members of the Holden Historical Society on the publication of their history book for Holden and District.

The hard work and dedication of all those people associated with this endeavour reflects the qualities of those who founded our towns and cities.

I send you all my warmest best wishes for a happy Homecoming--and the celebration of Holden's 75th Anniversary.

How It Happened

As Leona Koetke and Helen Zwierschke sat chatting at a curling game they decided that Holden could have a history book. They advertised a meeting for all who were interested in such a project. Nearly forty attended the gathering at the Seniors' Drop In Centre. The following day Grace Appleby and Pearl Allan journeyed to a day-long seminar on local history books which was presented at Blackfoot, by Alberta Culture. They returned full of enthusiasm and information which they imparted at another public meeting. Holden Historical Society consisting of twenty-seven members was formed with Helen Zwierschke as president, David Faryna vice president, Annie Tchir secretary and Marvin Giebelhaus treasurer.



Executive of the Holden Historical Society. Seated: Helen Zwierschke — president, Annie Tchir — secretary. Standing: Marvin Giebelhaus — treasurer, Dave Faryna — vice-president.

Kathy Sinclair, the New Horizons representative came and gave us information and helped us organize a local group. Grace Appleby was made president, Pearl Allan vice president and Kathleen Hurum secretary-treasurer.

After interviewing several printers we chose Friesen to print our book. Al Granger, their representative soon had the mailing brochures printed to our specifications. We had compiled a mailing list and typed a card file. Groups met at the Centre and addressed the brochures which were mailed to former residents near and far.



Editorial Committee: Grace Appleby, Leona Koetke, Pearl Allan and Emily Chrystian.

Surprisingly soon, the family histories, pictures and the necessary \$20 deposits on the Holden History Book began to roll in. Volunteers set to work enthusiastically editing, typing, filing etc. Tuesdays and Thursdays became regular workdays and the Drop-In Centre became almost a second home to the history book committee. Most of the typing was done at home by: Grace Appleby, Pearl Allan, Annette Chrystian, Emily Chrystian, Dora Faryna, Olive Good, Earl Hardy, Leona Koetke and Susan Tymchak. Earl was map maker and artist.

We appreciate the work of the many who helped in so many ways: Carol Hurum Maxwell researched and wrote "Holden Then and Now"; Melvin Fjellstrom built the cupboard which holds a multitude of miscellanea; Michael Mulick loaned us a filing cabinet; many wrote extra articles; all those



Choosing pictures and writing captions. Standing: Anne Faryna, Grace Appleby, Leona Koetke, Lyle Grosland, Kathleen Hurum, Ezra Eberhart, Olive Good, Earl Hardy. Seated: Irene Olson, Emily Chrystian, Pearl Allan, Ethel Brekstad.

who helped in fund raising working at bingo or by donations.

Especially we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to understanding spouses and families who have so patiently endured and cheerfully cooperated with us.

We thank all who suggested titles for the book.

"Hemstitches and Hackamores", the title chosen, was submitted by Doris Ogrodnick.

All work done by the committee has been cheerfully and painstakingly done to the best of our ability, entirely without remuneration. Our greatest reward will be that you enjoy the result: "The Book".

Holden History Book Committee



Proofreaders. Standing: Earl Hardy, Leona Koetke, Emily Chrystian, Irene Olson, Anne Faryna. Seated: Olive Good, Pearl Allan, Ethel Brekstad, Grace Appleby, Mary Laskoski, Ezra Eberhart, Annie Tchir.



Some members of the Holden Historical Society. Back Row: Lyle Grosland, Alfred Sorensen, Jim Zwierschke, Dave Faryna, Ezra Eberhart, Earl Hardy, Michael Mulick. Middle Row: Emily Chrystian, Leona Koetke, Kathleen Kawalilak, Helen Zwierschke, Grace Appleby. Seated: Ethel Brekstad, Annie Tchir, Mary Laskoski, Kathleen Hurum, Irene Olson, Pearl Allan, Anne Faryna.



Working diligently: Mary Laskoski, Ezra Eberhart, Pearl Allan, Kathleen Hurum, Emily Chrystian, Leona Koetke.

The Book Committee

'Twas the month before deadline for materials in
To Friesen Printers, so where to begin
To describe our committee, so jolly and willing,
Who in spite of all order, found themselves milling
Around Michael's cabinet with all drawers pulled
out,

And access to none, but no one did shout,
For we knew all would be ready, our stories had
clout,
You people who wrote them know what that's
about.

"Where's 'so and so's' story?" Just ask Emily
Chrystian,
Her orderly mind just purrs like a piston.
"Remember", we said, "Put that one over there,
With a small note attached, be careful, don't tear"
Of course we remember; how could we forget?
It's written down somewhere, we'll find it yet.
Pearl broke through the clamor with a list of our
duties,

Leona explained them; they really were beauties

Like red pen on the right if that's our mistake,
Could cost us four dollars, but our pride's at stake.
So we check and recheck, and still find something
wrong.

How could we have missed that? Oh, what a
"Ding-Dong"!

There's Earl the map maker, his ruler in hand,
He carefully lined up who first owned the land,
And then showed who followed — what precision
that took!

Besides he did drawings to brighten our book.
He's a ham radio operator, a rock polisher too,
A traveller, a fisherman — he's caught quite a few.



At work. Standing: Pearl Allan, Grace Appleby, Earl Hardy, Leona Koetke, Ezra Eberhart, Mary Laskoski. Seated: Kathleen Hurum, Emily Chrystian, Olive Good.

He taught school, played in band, and was our
M.L.A.

He often complained of too few hours in a day.

Now Kathleen so steady works hard every day,
And her "goodies" at three, help lighten our way.
For five organizations she keeps the books,
When she's not doing that, we're glad that she
cooks.

Ethel Brekstad lined up veterans of World Wars
One and Two;
Even a Commander-in Chief finds that hard to do.
She saves clippings and snap shots, salt and
peppers as well,
About the treasures she's stored, I couldn't begin
to tell.

Dave Faryna came in and helped with proof
reading,
For that first year 'til it was time to go seeding,
He worked on the map of Holden and 'round,
We're glad that he helped get the book off the
ground.

Do we hear a giggle, a laugh, then a roar?
That's Irene and Anne, and I'll tell you more . . .
They remember how they did things almost as droll
As burying seed potatoes all in one hole;
After planting them properly most of the day,
Their aching backs were causing dismay;
And they wondered who'd dig all those potatoes
come fall

If no discretion were shown at all.
This pair kept our belts tight, with all their rich
baking,
But what does that matter? Our book's in the
making.

Annie Tchir, the essence of tact,

Knows just how to word things so they don't detract.
She knows many families from grandparents on down,
She knows where they live, and who gained renown.
She is our secretary, faithful and steady,
And takes on each new task with a smile warm and ready.
Lyle tells us stories and jokes that are nice,
One was so funny that he told it twice
Because Pearl insisted, she was getting our coffee,
and therefore she missed it.

Ezra, proof reader, dictionary for reference,
Corrected the spelling, even noted the preference,
He questioned the grammar and punctuation too,
The mistakes that he missed were certainly few.
This tall busy ranchman who looks so dashing
Hated "Bingo" with close to a passion,
But finally succumbed to a ticket-seller quite perky,
And guess what, Ezra won! — "The Turkey"!
Olive Good is very well named,
For her acts of kindness she is indeed famed.
This typist works tirelessly and with such precision,
She contemplates long, then makes a decision.
Things must sound right, no statement ridiculous,
Her appearance and work can be described as meticulous.
Mary, we know, is so conscientious
She'd never allow anything as licentious
As a poem without beat, or rhythm, or rhyme.
(You note this one is not always in time.)
Don't take this wrongly, she's not sanctimonious;
Her work with our group was always harmonious.
Leona, on time, even with her long drive,
Is often first here, seldom leaves before five;
Whatever the time she knows just what to do,

Not just for herself, but the rest of us too.
Pearl was school librarian, so knew where to lay
Her hands upon records without any delay.
So faithful was Pearl that when she broke a bone
Away off in Kingston, she still made it home;
Came in with her crutches and cast, but was ready,
Before and since she has really gone steady.
Emily's smile is so warm that we're eager
To start where we left off, and no task's too meagre
For anyone, cause she's so sincere,
Keeps the "show on the road", isn't that why
we're here?

Who are our captains, our leaders, our chiefs?
Who steers the boat so we don't hit the reefs?
Who dauntlessly plies the unknown to date?
Who sees that for Friesen our work's never late?
Who forges and plans for course and direction,
And patiently accepts the smallest correction?
You're right you did guess, these commanders
three;
Leona and Pearl and Emily.

Now to end our biographies
We'd like to tell you about a gal named Grace.
A nicer person you'll never find in our universe,
Bringing information on where to punctuate
It's hard for us to find the words that show the true extent
Of what her love, encouragement, and thoughtfulness have meant.
It's easy to say "Thank you", for the lessons she has taught,
For the cheerful words she's spoken, for the help and fun she's brought.
It's easy to say "Thank you" for all the laughs she's shared,
But it's difficult to tell her how each "Thank you" brings
The privilege of sharing in so many special things.



Aerial view of Holden from south to north in early 1950s.

Then and Now

Holden Then and Now

by Carol Maxwell

Pre-Holden

It is hard to imagine this area, minus town, minus farms, minus everything but miles of solitude populated only by wild animals. So it was, centuries ago, before even the nomadic bands of Indians made the prairies their home. Anthropologists believe that this final area of the Americas to be settled was also the final area to be inhabited by the Indians who began converging on this last open, unoccupied expanse of land.

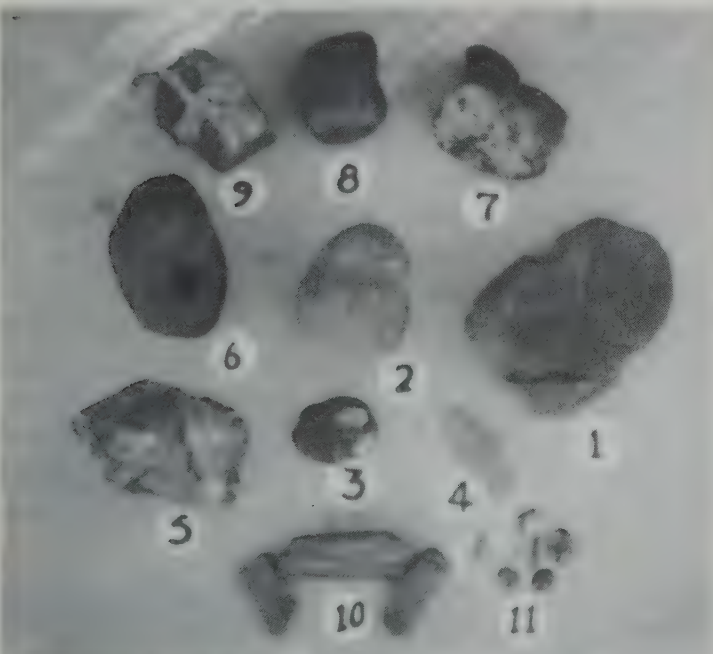
The group to inhabit this area was the Plains Cree. Their movement onto the plains was basically a result of the arrival of the White Man in Eastern

Canada. When these early intruders began trading for furs with the Eastern Indians, they set up a chain-reaction, whereby Indians moving ever westward in their quest for furs, began encroaching on the supplies of resident tribes. So it is believed that the Plains Cree were an offshoot of the Woodland Cree, the former moving out onto the plains in search of a livelihood. They found it in the buffalo and there are few who do not know how the drive for robes depleted the buffalo.

Although it is not known of any specific encampment in this area, numerous Indian artifacts have been found that testify to an Indian presence in the past. The Battle River and Beaverhill Lake are probably the two closest known sites of Indian habitation. So with the exception of a few explorers, this region remained exclusively a home to the natives until the last half of the 19th century.

Farther east, things began to happen which were to determine the fate of central Alberta. The 1870's saw a number of developments. Realizing the potential of Western Canada, the government began providing their solution to the "Indian Problem". Treaties were signed in all regions that were to guarantee smooth settling of the prairies. To further encourage settlers to the West, the Dominion Land Act, better known as the Homestead Act, was passed. By its proclamation, previously surveyed land could be had for a ten dollar filing fee per quarter section of land. Any male, or self-sufficient female, could apply. To earn free title to the land, the homesteader must live on the said land for six months out of each of the ensuing three years and actively cultivate the land during that period. If the person failed in his commitments, the land was once again considered open for new homesteaders. Other rules applied as well. (see Synopsis of Canadian Northwest Land Regulations.)

Not all the "Quarters" were open to homesteaders under the above regulations. When the surveying was done in the West, much of the land was allotted for other purposes. In partial payment for the



A collection of Indian Artifacts belonging to Earl Hardy. 1 and 2 - Indian hammer heads - implements of war and peace. 3 - Flint stone - useful to make sparks to start fire. 4 - Quartz - spear point or a very large arrow tip. 5-10 - Petrified wood. 6 - Stone with holes ground in it, apparently an implement to turn a wooden shaft in, to make fire by friction. 7 - A piece of "chinking" (baked clay), apparently left after cabin burned. (1885) origin). 8-9 - Dinosaur bones. Number 8 is a vertebra about 2½ by 2 inches. 11 - Jewelry made from polished stones. (Earl and Mary Hardy)

Synopsis of Canadian North-West Land Regulations.

ANY person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price three dollars per acre. Duties—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price three dollars per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth three hundred dollars.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

Canadian Northwest Land Regulations.

building of the transcontinental railway, the CPR was granted all the odd numbered sections in the West. In addition, sections 8 and 26 in each township were granted to the Hudson Bay Co. as partial payment for the loss of their charter to trade exclusively in the Northwest. Section 11 in each township was reserved as crown land to be used when needed as school land. Most of this land has now been bought by farmers, but there remains some owned by the CPR. (All of the land locations referred to herein, lie to the west of the 4th meridian.)

The real land promotion in Western Canada began in 1896 when Clifford Sifton became the Minister of the Interior. He was the first cabinet minister from the West and the ambition of this lawyer from Brandon, Manitoba, was to fill the West with strong settlers who would contribute significantly to the nation's growth. His campaign of posters, newspaper ads, and painted wagons is legendary. At one time he carried ads in 6000 different U.S. papers. Agents with their leaflets haunted many a foreign country in which their welcome was often very short-lived or non-existent. It was probably due, partly at least, to this effort that our community became a center for such a variety of nationalities.

Long before the first permanent settlers came to this area, the old Battleford Trail had witnessed the passing of innumerable freight carts which in years previous plodded along from Battleford, Saskatchewan, to Hay Lakes. This trail followed closely the first telegraph line through here, which itself threaded across the prairies to the north of the present site of Viking and thence westward so that it passed to the south of the future site of Holden. This trail would provide a sort of road for the future homesteaders.

Many of the early homesteaders to this region had previously settled in the northern states, such as the Dakotas and Minnesota. Others came from Eastern Canada or from Europe to answer to the enticing ads that were appearing in newspapers far and wide. Those who had been in the U.S. or Canada for some time already had a working knowledge of English which made their early negotiations easier. In addition

No. 150535

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 20382

 Agency, _____ 190__

I certify that I have received from Peter Larsson
of Marquette, Minn.
the sum of 22 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for N.W.
Quarter Section 22 Township 49 Range 14
West of 4th Meridian, and that the said Peter Larsson
is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

W. W. Cory
Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Interim homestead receipt.

Holden: It's Rise and Progress

"The Prettiest Townsite on the G. T. P."

(1910)

Story promoting Holden.

tion they were able to bring all the goods, machinery and cattle they had acquired with them by rail, and for these there was a cheap fare for boxcars of settlers' goods.

By 1902, Wetaskiwin, situated on the Edmonton to Calgary rail line, became a main jump-off for settlers of the future Holden district. An immigration hall looked after the needs of the homesteader's family, if need be, while he settled on his claim and built a shelter. Some came before they filed a claim and scouted out a suitable site before returning to file their claim.

The Early Settlers

The years from 1902 to 1904 saw a great deal of settlement in the soon-to-be Holden district. Prospective farmers staked their claims (filed on their quarter section) and moved in with their family and belongings. It would seem that a number of people came to a certain district in the company of friends and/or relatives, either emigrating as a group from Europe, Eastern Canada, or the U.S. or later joining those who had come before.

Most of these early comers debarked from trains in Wetaskiwin which remained their closest link to

stores and mail for the first few years. "Going to town" was an event — a three day venture at which time the designated wagoner would pick up all sorts of supplies for neighbours. But especially the MAIL! How few and far between were those letters and newspapers from home and I'm sure each and everyone was dog-eared from the handling as well as from the tears of homesick readers.

But the early settlers had little time to mourn their lot. Those who regretted their move did not stay long, while those who persevered were much too busy.

The first order was to build something to live in; this was not an easy task for large trees were not plentiful in these parts. Some built their first homes of sod while others opted to haul large trees or lumber for many miles. The nearest sources of trees were Beaverhill Lake or the banks of the North Saskatchewan.

The farmer had to then seek to fulfill his agreement to break some of his land each year. This was often firstly a garden spot so that food for the present as well as approaching winter could be raised. The summer of '02 saw a few gardens sprouting in the district. Feed for livestock was no problem in the



John Jacobson's homestead.

summer months, but this abundance of wild hay had to be put up as well. Much of the gruelling, hard labor was done by sturdy oxen which many of the settlers brought with them. Oxen, though ponderously slow, were stronger than horses and cheaper to keep.

Once a shelter was built, and a source of water secured, it was necessary to plow a fireguard for the threat of a grass fire was always there.

There existed at this time no hunting season, per se. The need for meat dictated the killing of whatever was available. Deer, moose and bear soon left in the wake of settlers, but wild fowl provided many meals for the settler's table. Pre-chicken raising made the robbing of an early duck nest a treat.

Wild berries existed in abundance: raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, pincherries and gooseberries kept the housewife busy filling every available jar.

But for most early comers, all was not breaking, seeding, washing and cooking. The passing of another newcomer across the fenceless prairie surely meant company for a meal and often for the night. Parties and dances, be they few and far between, were held and the person who had brought his banjo or violin from home was always in demand.

Material needs attended to, the early settlers then turned to two other things they felt necessary: religion and education. Priests and ministers came with the settlers; early services were held in the homes and

traveling clergy performed baptisms, marriages and burials. Plans for building churches began as early as 1904 as with the Lutheran congregation, and affiliated women's groups met in member's homes.

Schools went beyond religious bounds, and it was up to the residents of a township to establish a school and hire a teacher. The first district to do such hereabouts was Longridge in 1904. Mr. Chas. N. Brisbin was its first teacher. The Pleasant Ridge School began in February of 1905; this beginning of the present Holden School District #1057 began with Miss Lottie Brisbin as its teacher, and was located a half mile north of the present Holden School. Thereafter, each district in the area soon established a school and we find names like Scona, Sandstorm, West Bruce, Togo, Vermillion Valley, Haight, Poe, Adams, and Myroslaw appearing over the next years.

With the influx of settlers, it follows that there would be a rise of business places to meet the needs of the people. The first of these was the Ritland blacksmithing business which was originally operated from the homestead. This was later one of the first businesses to locate in the new town.

The first local area post office was established at the William Campbell residence. Local people now had their own postal address, Vermillion Valley. Mail came with some regularity and the Campbell home became a centre serving as not only as the post office, but a hotel, church, and police station in turn, as it



Ritland Blacksmith Shop.

was not uncommon for the N.W.M.P. to detain a prisoner there enroute to the nearest detachment.

Talk of a coming railway led other businesses to begin locating close to the rumored town site. N. L. Smith operated a store near the present school before the arrival of the long awaited train.

Other early post office locations bore the names Borszczow, Ulster, Quarrel, Longridge, Scona, Kopernick, Martins, Prosperity.

Holden Gets Its Name

It soon became necessary to give a name to the community that was growing near the expected railway. No longer was it only a rural people who got their mail via Vermillion Valley, North West Territories; it was becoming a bona fide village in the new province of Alberta. The name "Holden" was chosen in 1906 as a salute to the area's first member of the new provincial legislature: J. B. Holden.

The first post office was located in Smith's Pioneer Store with Mr. N. Smith as agent.

The Railway

Various railways played a part in the early settlement of the Holden district. The Edmonton-Calgary connection was, of course, influential in bringing settlers to Wetaskiwin. The Canadian Pacific expansion on the northern perimeter through Vegreville and more southern line to Camrose made postal drop points closer, as well as providing a more accessible

The Grand Trunk Pacific became the Canadian National Railway in 1923. The government of Canada absorbed several bankrupt lines, and several government owned lines including the Grand Trunk Pacific, thus forming the nucleus of the Canadian National Railway.

Growth of a Village

If ever Holden boomed, it was in the latter years of the first decade. Even before the final selection of the official townsite, numerous businesses began to locate to the west of the present school. A contractor, Mr. L. A. Schlanser, located here and was influential in some of the commercial building in 1907. He built the new Chase hardware and furniture store as well as a new home for himself. Winsness and Grosland bought the building belonging to Campbell, Stewart and Brisbin and opened a general store. Mr. P. Kjosness announced that he would soon be moving his general merchandise into Holden from his location at Martins. N. M. Smith's Pioneer Store was painted, and the implement and lumber business under Stewart and Brisbin established an office as well as another building to house their implements and feed mill. The motto of the news correspondent to the Vegreville Observer of the time was "Watch Holden Grow".

And grow it did! By July 1908, the lots in the new townsite, (which had been the homesteads of Joe Stewart and Archie Appleby) were placed on the



C. N. R. Station.

link to markets for farm products and suppliers of goods for homes and businesses. Until 1909! What had begun as rumors and preliminary surveys in 1904 culminated in the laying of the rail, and ultimately, the arrival of the first train in 1909. The longest, straightest stretch of track in Canada was laid through here and the survey placed Holden about the centre. A depot was soon built; Mr. A. J. Ashby was the first agent.

The black smoke and whistle of that first **Grand Trunk Pacific** signalled the end of jobs for some local men, but it opened a whole new array of business opportunities.

G. O'DOHERTY

P. SORENSSEN

Holden Livery, Feed and Sales Stables,
G. O'Doherty & Sorensen, : Proprietors.

SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO COMMERCIAL MEN AND LAND SEEKERS
GOOD HORSES. GOOD RIGGS. PRICES RIGHT.
HORSES BOUGHT AND SOLD OR EXCHANGED.

FORM XX

No. 1	LICENSE	\$6.00
VILLAGE OF <u>Holden Alta</u>		
This is to Certify that <u>Sorensen & O'Doherty</u>		
is hereby licensed to <u>carry on business</u>		
<u>of Draymen</u>		
in the said <u>Village of Holden</u>		
This License is to be in force from the date of the date hereunder until the <u>31st Decem</u>		
following, unless sooner suspended or forfeited		
Provided, nevertheless, that he the said <u>Sorensen & O'Doherty</u> shall observe and keep		
all such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as are now or hereinafter may be in force of the said Village		
of <u>Holden</u> respecting <u>Draymen</u>		
Dated this <u>seventh</u> day of <u>July</u> 1909		
Secretary-Treasurer		

Business card and license — 1909.



Chas. Chase in his hardware store.



Main Street in 1912.

market. Immediately, owners of businesses already established were hiring movers to relocate their premises. By August, the first building, a restaurant, was ready for business. By December of 1908 the list of local businesses read as such: two general stores, a



Looking east on 3rd Avenue W. towards Main Street, 1909.

hardware, a restaurant, two lumberyards, two drug-stores, one boarding house, two livery barns, a blacksmith, two real estate offices, two butcher shops and one town hall. A new hotel was hoped for in the near future and a grain warehouse near the approaching railway was being built.

All was not hard work. A literary society met weekly and discussed some very meaty subjects,

such as, "Was the execution of Charles I justifiable?" as well as topics as light as "Is there more knowledge to be gained from books than from observation?" One debate was held that in the words of the local paper in 1912 "threatens to stir up a downright, good race war in town". Its subject was "Resolved that Scotchmen have done more for mankind than Englishmen".

By the summer of 1909, the railway linked the new village with larger centres, thus providing the



Laying the ties for the C.N.R.



Holden, looking west on 3rd Avenue E. toward Main Street — 1911.



Laying the rails.

connection necessary to farmers, as this was becoming a region well respected for the quality of Red Alberta winter wheat that it produced. Hogs, poultry and dairy cattle also were producing surpluses beyond the local needs and these, too, were shipped to outside markets. The railway's arrival also led to the building of stockyards to the south of the track,

and cattle raisers were able to accompany a load of stock to Edmonton, or have them tended to by a local buyer who would then do this service for them. G. Maruszczyka was the main cattle buyer for a number of years.

The local branch of the United Farmers' Union was formed to see that the farmers' interests were best served.

As the farmers' progress was showing, so was that of the town itself. On April 14, 1909, it was incorporated as a village with Dr. Farrell as its first mayor. In addition to an active town council, a chamber of commerce, composed of the majority of businessmen, looked toward the continuing advancement and well-being of the town.

A major contributor to community spirit and growth was the Holden Herald. It commenced publication on April 7, 1910 and the front page carried a tribute to, and a brief history of the town. "The Prettiest Townsite on the GNP" was an accolade used frequently in reference to the town and it was this banner that spread across the front page. J. Mewhort was the first editor of The Herald and it is not to depredate his efforts, but rather a comment on the



Looking north to main street past the stockyards, note the farmers' teams waiting for hay bales from the east during the winter of 1919.



The George Maruszczyka lumber yard in 1920.

printing means of the time, when one sees that the date on the front page is April 7, 1910 and on the third page the date is given as April 7, 1909.

That first edition of the Holden Herald provides an insight into the stage of development at the time. All homestead quarter-sections within a 25 mile radius of Holden were taken by February 1909, so any land that was taken up by new settlers had to be purchased. The going price was anywhere from \$10-\$15 per acre. Most of the transactions were handled through the International Realty Ltd. for which Mr. Robert Allan was the local agent. Glowing descriptions of the town and surrounding farmland were carried in other newspapers, such as the Winnipeg Free Press, and The GTP ran "specials" carrying prospective settlers to the Great North West.

The business community had grown somewhat, and along with the idyllic description of the village was published a list of businesses now established:

2 general stores	1 printing office
2 hardware stores	1 feed mill
2 lumberyards	1 grain elevator (Prairie)
2 livery barns	2 real estate offices
3 boarding houses	2 machine agencies
1 drug store	2 blacksmith shops
1 furniture store	1 butcher shop
1 tailor shop	2 builders and contractors
1 painter	1 doctor
1 barber shop	1 optician
1 bank (Trader's)	1 harness shop
1 jeweller	1 poolroom
insurance agencies	loan agencies

Not bad for 1910!

Now that the village was stationary, and growing, other needs were tended to. A more reliable water source was assured by the digging of a cistern (8 × 20 × 12' deep), later followed by the purchase of a windmill located approximately behind what is now the Lucky Dollar Store. A site for the location of a new school was chosen as records showed that the school attendance had doubled.

The 1907 promise of the telephone began to bear out. A long distance line from Edmonton to Wainwright commenced construction and five teams were kept busy hauling poles along the route.

Continued building showed in the construction of a 25 room hotel as well as another elevator. New buildings included a harness shop, a new store to be



Holden Hotel bar room in 1914.



Holden Pool Hall.



Holden's first hotel.

named The Holden Trading Co., as well as an addition to another general store, that of Johnson and Hurum.

An Agricultural Society existed at the time and the Fall Fair was held in late September. Previous to that, the summer months were filled with picnics and ball games. The First of July was an annual sports day; races of all descriptions were held and the paper carried the results. Interdenominational Sunday School picnics were held for the benefit of the children.

Train service increased in 1910 with the daily running between Edmonton and Wainwright, and the "Edmonton Express" and the Winnipeg Express" began their runs; through time was about 30 hours, the train reaching a maximum of 48 mph. The price of a round trip to Edmonton was \$1.85 which was not all that little when one considers some of the prices at the time. Cultivated land was going for \$10-\$15 per acre. Coal could be had for \$1.75 per ton. A box of corn flakes cost 7¢. Coffee cost 35¢ or 40¢, and baking powder was 15¢-20¢. Dress goods ranged anywhere from 25¢ per yard up to 85¢ per yard, or you could buy silk (only 28 inches wide) at 60¢-65¢ per yard. Men's suits ranged from \$8.00-\$15.00. The local Methodists held a fund raiser for their new church: Chicken supper, with all the trimmings cost you 25¢.

Over the next few years, the paper continued to carry glowing reports and ads run by land agencies, still trying to attract more settlers to this region. Although all of the homesteads had been taken, there was money to be made in selling cultivated land.

Other improvements were used as attractions as well.

By late 1911, the new school had been built. The first floor of a brick building contained two large classrooms and cost \$7000. Forty pupils now attended.

A deputation met with the Premier of Alberta,

Mr. Sifton, who was also the Minister of Telephones, to plead its case for the establishment of local phone service. This bore fruition for within a year plans were being made for extended lines connecting Holden with Camrose and Vegreville, and by August of 1912 plans were being made to install about a dozen phones in town. Cost: \$24.00 per year for businesses and \$15.00 per year for residences.

Dr. Farrell, a perennial leader in local affairs, sparked the organization of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Stokes was the first leader and Geo. H. Taylor served as assistant leader for many years. Boys who belonged to the scouts were expected to live up to the Scout Law and were reminded often of their commitments.

Hayes Hall, located on the corner directly south of the lumberyard, became the meeting place in the town. Dances were held there as well as regular meetings of the various organizations.

The first of the lodges to appear in Holden was a chapter of The Modern Woodmen of America. This lodge was founded in the U.S. in 1883, and its members or dependants could receive death, disability, or orphan benefits.

Holden was at this time part of the Local Improvement District 24-M-4. There were four councillors to represent the needs of the people and in the spring of 1911, everyone was urged to contact his councillor to receive free gopher poison.

Building continued in the town over the ensuing years. A new town hall was built, (now it serves as the Masonic Hall). The Methodists built a church and manse, and when their numbers could no longer meet in homes, the Lutherans rented this at \$1.00 per week until their own church was built in 1915.

A new fire hall was built to house the newly acquired fire engine.

The Trader's Bank erected a new two storey building. Later in the same year, 1912, a merger made this the Royal Bank as it has remained until today.

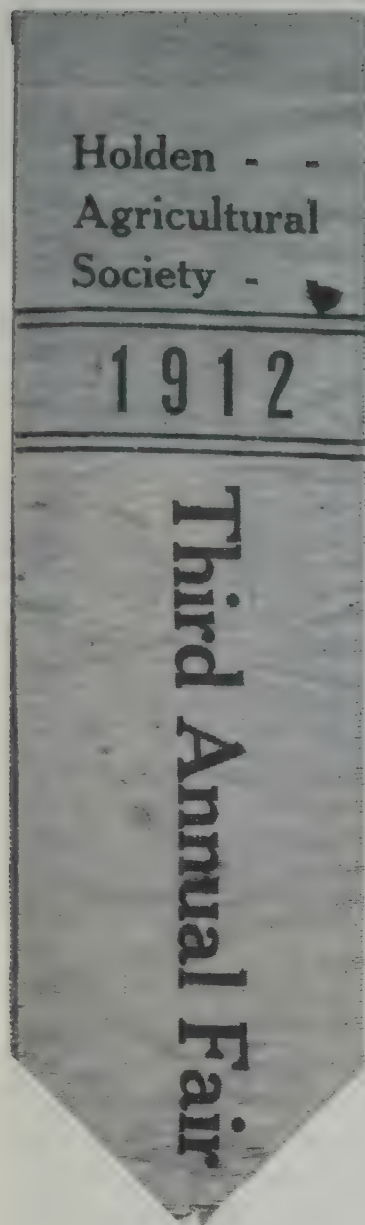
Those with money to invest could purchase a quarter of CPR land for \$130.00 down, with 19 years to make up the difference of the \$16.50 per acre.

A news item of November, 1913 reported the opening of The Farmers' Elevator with a rush of 2000 bushels of grain coming in the first day.

Life in the young town continued to cater to the interests of everyone. In addition to the big July 1st Sports day, various sports were a year round attraction.

Hockey teams as well as baseball teams vied with neighbouring towns for such cups as the Holden Hockey Trophy, The James B. Holden Cup, and the Mitchell Cup (for baseball).

The fall brought the annual fair which was



Prize ribbon won by Mary Fjellstrom at fair in 1912.

organized by the Agricultural Society. The fair grounds had been purchased and plans were made to construct a building to display the farm produce. This building doubled as a curling rink come winter. An idea of the significance of the fall fair lies in the fact that late in September, all threshing crews shut down for the day.

The interest in things agricultural was sustained by the holding of short courses by the Department of Agriculture. Topics for farmers included everything from dairying to control of noxious weeds, while subjects in the line of domestic sciences included home nursing along with the predictable cooking and sewing.

Circuses, with their strange foreign animals and daring aerial acts, brought an exotic flavor to prairie life.

Businesswise, women were thrilled to have a new millinery and dressmaking shop in town, while children of all ages could indulge themselves at the new ice cream parlour.

The spring of 1913 saw a great deal of political activity in the district. A number of delegates were chosen to attend each of the Conservative and Liberal nominating conventions in Vegreville. These nominations were hotly contested and the conventions themselves were wild, heated affairs.

To perhaps stave off the political heat, or perhaps the languor of a long winter just over, the local switchboard operator pulled an April Fool's of her own. She plugged in each of the connections, then 'rung them all up' and let them try to make sense out of the resulting call.

The War Years

The first great war slowed village growth somewhat. Holden district sent its share of men into the fray, but those who stayed at home did their share in the war effort as well. As early as September of 1914 local women under the direction of Mrs. Farrell had formed a soldiers' relief committee to collect and sew

<i>Mike Motkowski</i> Signature of Registrant		CANADA REGISTRATION BOARD This certificate must always be carried upon the person of the registrant	NUMBER 229 923 42
	THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT <i>Mike Motkowski</i>		
	residing at <i>1 Kopernick</i>		
	was duly registered for the national purposes of Canada this <i>22</i> day of <i>June</i> 191 <i>8</i>		
		<i>Leah M. Wilson</i> Deputy Registrar	

Registration document — 1918.

for the boys overseas. A local branch of the Red Cross was formed and various fund raising events were held.

In a more direct reaction to the war itself, Holden Troop of C Squadron, 19th Alberta Dragoons were organized in the year previous to the start of the war and held regular drill practices in addition to spending two weeks at camp in Calgary. These troopers were in readiness to be called up.

A letter from Trumpeter Cecil Mumford who was stationed in England in June of 1915, told of the suffering of Belgian women and children, and of the wounded soldiers. He appealed to the local people to be generous in their donations toward the comfort of the allied soldiers.

Locals were informed later that year that an agreement had been reached with the postal authorities that allowed parcels to be shipped to soldiers in France and Flanders at reduced rates. This was

welcomed as postage had become a great expense in itself.

With the cloud of war ever hanging overhead, life proceeded somewhat normally in Holden. Parties were held to send off recruits to the war, and regular holidays were celebrated, albeit with less gusto than in by gone years.

The big item to cause emotional debate in 1915 was the temperance issue. When the big vote was held, with a 90 per cent turnout, Alberta went "Dry" by a 2:1 majority, with Holden's results given as 82 Dry and 32 Wet. As a result all liquor licenses were suspended as of July 1, 1916. To quote the Herald: "It's a safe bet that never again will such licenses be seen in Alberta".

The final year of the war brought to Holden some distinction as it became the first town in Northern Alberta to win the Honor Flag. This meant they had surpassed their dollar objective in raising money for the war effort. In Holden district in 1918 over \$20,000 had been raised. People who had invested in Victory Bonds could enjoy the Armistice even more.

That summer before the war ended, local men, especially farmers with teams, were employed by the GTP digging the huge reservoir east of Holden. This dugout, 900' x 200' x 15', supplied the steamers with water between Edmonton and Wainwright all the years until the diesels appeared.



The C.N.R. water tank by Crimmin's crossing.



The first railroad reservoir — east of Holden.

The boom in Holden's growth was past, and following the war life proceeded through the twenties true to the character of the times. That is not to say that it "roared" but there was a continued emphasis on good times. Many social events filled people's leisure time in the form of concerts, dances and the ever popular pie social. Sports continued to be well supported and the Athletic Association made definite arrangements for the construction of a new skating rink, but the fall of 1921 still saw the curling rink a financial impossibility. Basketball was played and tennis courts were constructed.

The summer of 1922 brought to Holden a national touring group called the Dominion Chautauqua. For three days in August, it entertained under a big top with local residents helped to erect. The entertainment offered was orators, semi-classical music and family plays. The Chautauqua was organized in Canada during the first W.W. to bring some measure of cultural activities to Western Canada, and although it later spread to Ontario and the Maritimes, it outlived its appeal with the advent of radio and moving pictures.

The first radio reception in the area was in the Royal George Hotel in Edmonton. It was not until some time later that local residents began receiving programs by air.

The biggest changes in the business community were changes for the farmer. He could now sell his grain at any of three elevators. The farmers who milked cows, originally had made their own butter, which many of them sold or traded to the local stores. Soon agents, acting for city dairies, began buying their cream and shipping it by rail to Edmonton. By 1920 there were five such agents in town. In 1923, the local creamery was built and cream had only to be brought into town where butter was made locally, the surplus shipped by rail. (The price of butter fat was roughly 45¢ per pound.)

The big event of the 20's was the decision to lay a gas pipeline to Edmonton from the Viking field



An early "creamery".



The old town windmill, 1920.

AUCTION SALE

Having received instructions from the Undersigned, I will Sell by Public Auction at his place, the North-East Quarter, Section 16-48-16, west of 4th M., Seven Miles South of Holden, on

FRIDAY, MARCH 28,

Commencing at One O'clock Sharp, The Following Property:

HORSES

Bay Mare, 7 years old, weight 1300 lbs., In Foal

~~Bay Horse, 6 years old, weight 1400 lbs.~~

Roan Horse, 4 years old, weight 1200 lbs.

Bay Horse, 3 years old, weight 1300 lbs.

Bay Horse, 3 years old, weight 1300 lbs.

Mare, 2 years old, weight 1100 lbs.

Colt, 15 months old

CATTLE

4 Cow, in calf

Fresh cow and calf

3 Heifers, 2 years old

Sow, with pig

4 Turkeys

50 Chickens.

MACHINERY.

Fanning Mill, nearly new

3-sec. Harrow

Sulky Plow

Walking Plow

McCormick Binder

" Mower

" Hay Rake

" Drill, nearly new

Bob Sleighs

Jumper Sleigh

Democrat Buggy, new

4 Sets Work Harness

Wagon

ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

And Other Articles Too Numerous To Mention.

FREE LUNCH AT NOON.

Sale To Commence At One O'clock Sharp.

TERMS—All sums of \$10 and under cash, Over that amount Twelve Months Credit will be given on furnishing approved Joint Lien Notes bearing Interest at 8 Per cent. Five per cent discount for cash on all credit amounts. Property Not to be removed until satisfactorily settled for.

Pete Wyrkioski,

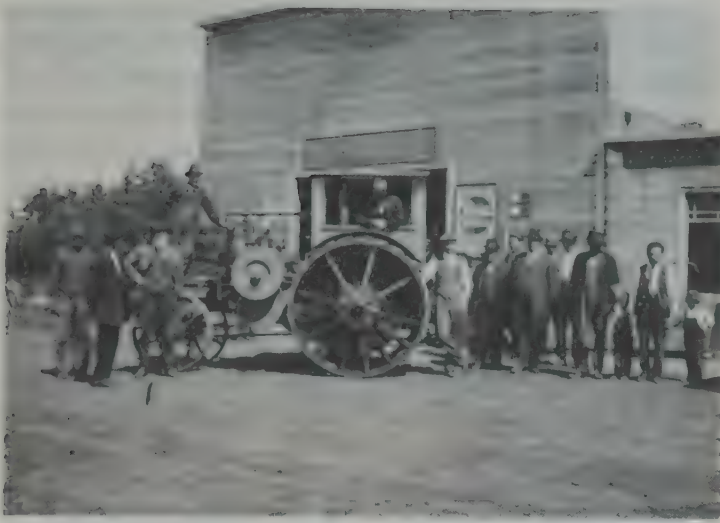
Proprietor.

G. E. McVittie,

Clerk.

Math. Lemm,

Auctioneer.



Edward Christianson on tractor in front of Kenny James shop. Far right: Mr. M. Black, with Sam and Harry.



Laying the cement sidewalk in Holden in 1927. Even Olsen, Calvin MacPherson, Arne Nelson, (?), (?).

where the discovery of natural gas had occurred in 1914. The war had slowed progress on distribution from this field, and Northwestern Utilities Limited was subsequently formed in May of 1923. The company of Ford, Bacon and Davison was contracted to build a line from Viking to Edmonton. Much of the ditching was done by hand although a ditching machine was used for part of the line. Regardless, record time was achieved, for 88 working days after construction began, a natural gas flare was lighted on the 105th Street Bridge in Edmonton. Holden, being on the line, was one of the six first towns in Northern Alberta to be serviced with natural gas.

Post-war Times

Along with the change over from wood and coal for heating, some were modernizing in lighting also. The coal oil lamps with their wicks and delicate mantles were being replaced by light bulbs with electricity provided by home generators, mainly windcharged.

Life was good in the twenties, and who was to know that there lay in the future ten long years of hardship and despair. Progress for that period of time

was a thing of the past and it was only the friendly spirit and co-operation of life in a small community that would make the hard times endurable.

The Depression Years

When the bottom fell out of the stock market late in 1929, it brought to an end the good years which had followed the First World War. The effect on the farmers of the drastic slump in grain and cattle prices was worsened by the drought which hit the prairies and gained in severity throughout the 30's.

There are many tales told by the people who lived through this time. People became great innovators. For example, it was not impossible to make "coffee" when there was no coffee to put in the coffee. If you were fortunate enough to have owned a car before, you hitched up your horses to the front of this vehicle, named after the man unfortunate enough to be prime minister at the time, and you "saved on gas" as you drove your Bennett Buggy.

Everything was fixable. The yards of baling wire which had been saved when bales of hay and green-feed had been brought in during the feed shortage of

T. A. LIDEN
GENERAL MERCHANT
"The Store That Serves You Best"

Holden, Alta., Feb. 3 1944

M Mr. J. J. Schumacher

Reg. No.	Clerk	Account Forwarded		
1	<u>Blanket</u>			3 95
2	<u>6 lbs. Flour</u>			1 18
3	<u>2 lbs. C 27</u>			58
4	<u>2 lbs. C 27</u>			58
5	<u>Rice</u>			28
6	<u>Letting</u>			48
7	<u>Orange</u>			38
8	<u>Apple</u>			20
9	<u>Lemon</u>			18
10	<u>Apple</u>			26
11	<u>F. White</u>			28
12	33			<u>9 06</u>

A grocery bill.

1919 were put to good use fixing everything to give it another life.

Cash became a rare commodity. Often the hoped for returns from livestock shipped to Edmonton were eaten up by the cost of shipping; it was not uncommon indeed, that a farmer might go in the hole on such a venture.

The urban dwellers felt the effects as well, as the lot of the farmer directly affects the lot of the town which serves him. There was some progress, however. Power was made available in the town in 1930 and the town hall was the first to install lights, replacing the gas lamps which had been welcomed in 1923.

In 1933, a projection booth was built in the town hall; and movies were soon shown, live pianist and all, to patrons wishing to escape the realities of life for a couple of hours.

Two years later, a new town hall was erected and it still remains as part of the present community hall.



Holden Community Hall, built in 1935.

A bylaw which has long since been ignored was passed in 1934. All children under the age of 17 were to be confined to their homes after nine p.m.

Sports continued to occupy the locals through this time and in 1938 the curling club was granted permission to rebuild the rink at the site where it stood until removed to make way for the present "Complex".

So life proceeded through the 30's. That inalienable "next year" philosophy held by westerners saw most people through and as history has shown it was, ironically, WW II that brought the world out of its severe depression.

1939-1945

After Britain declared war on September 3, 1939, Canada followed on her heels exactly one week later. September 10th became the starting point for economic recovery. Immediately, wheat was in demand and jobs were available for people to man the production lines to manufacture everything from planes and ships to textiles and uniforms.

Almost 10,000 Canadians, Holdenites among them, enlisted. Their reasons varied: a desire to preserve our freedom, a desire for adventure in parts unknown, a job with wages guaranteed (plus allowances for wife and children). Regardless, they flocked to recruiting stations and, depending on their respective assignments, were soon "shipped out".

Canadians could be much more in touch with events than they had been in the first war. The radio kept them informed of the day by day happenings, not only in the war itself, but of the grain prices, for the rain had begun to fall again and the surplus was needed for the war.



Women's Institute group making quilts for the Red Cross. Back Row: June Clark, Bertha Logan, Mrs. J. Houston, Mrs. Stackhouse, Mrs. Good, Mrs. Daily, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Ferguson, Nina Ritland, Mrs. J. Story, Olive Chetney, Mrs. Clark, Lottie Jefferies. Front Row: Ethel Brekstad, Mable Story, Irene Taylor, Inga Chetney, Vern Story.



Some ration coupons.

On the home front, life was busy. The local Red Cross group immediately went to work and for the duration of the war kept busy cutting and sewing garments, especially pyjamas, for the servicemen. A group of women met weekly to quilt and knitting needles clicked fashioning the needed socks and sweaters.

Again Canadians were called upon to help financially in the war effort. Of the \$18 billion Canada spent on the war, \$12 billion was raised through victory bonds and war bonds. Even youngsters saved their pennies and bought \$5 bonds which would later return \$7.50. The Holden community was again outstanding in this regard and they unselfishly sur-

passed their objectives as they had done in the previous war.

The Overseas Club (also known as "The Soldiers' Comfort Fund") was formed. This organization raised money through various means; donations, raffles, baseball and hockey pools. At Christmas in 1943, the enlisted men each received an album of snapshots and 1000 cigarettes. The next year, each received a similar album, and those who were overseas received, as well, 300 cigarettes, a box of chocolates, and a box of gum. Canadian based men on active duty were also given a year's subscription to the Holden Herald.

The local statistics at the beginning of 1945 were: Serving overseas — 79; Serving in Canada — 83; Prisoner of war — 1; Discharged — 22; Missing — 3; Killed in action — 7; a pretty respectable record for a small community in a country which, although small in population, did so much to help secure a victory for the Allies by her contributions at home as well as on the front.

A sure memory of those who helped at home was the ration coupons which were issued to every man, woman and child in 1942. Rationing had begun the year before with a freeze on prices, wages, and rents, along with restrictions on the styles one could buy. Now, people were limited in their purchases of sugar, tea, coffee, butter, meat, and gasoline. The latter worked little hardship, for the year before it became impossible to purchase tires and inner tubes, and antifreeze was very scarce. Liquor was rationed, too, and those who abstained became fair game for others trying to bilk them out of their liquor coupons.

It was a war by which everyone was touched. Little wonder that the churches were in constant readiness for a joint thanksgiving service and organizations were willing to give up the hall if they had it booked, in order to hold a victory dance. Peace, when it came, was welcomed by all. May 8, 1945: Victory in Europe. August 15, 1945: Japan surrendered.

Holden along with the rest of the world, began putting life back in order.

Years of Tranquility

Following the peace settlement, the servicemen gradually made their way home and settled into a rather predictable routine. Main Street in Holden met nearly all the needs of the people in the community; there were several general stores, and in 1946 the opening of a ladies' wear meant women no longer had to rely exclusively on Simpson's and Eaton's. At one time, no less than seven service stations operated in town, and almost any of the popular makes of vehicles could be purchased through one or the other of these. Hardware stores kept abreast of the times by



Mike Kadosky, Joe Petasky, Dick Forrest, Bob Newall, Roy Becket, Percy Owen.



Holden water wagon.



The hardware fire in Holden in 1940. Note fire fighting equipment.



Holden gets a new fire engine, 1948. John Blake and Arnold Berg. Town Hall and Fire Hall are in background.

carrying the latest gadgets on the market, and by the mid-fifties local residents were congregating around TV sets which enticed them to take home this latest miracle of the airwaves.

Freight delivery was a welcomed diversion, especially for the younger folk, who rode the dray and generally got in the way of the men. Another attrac-

tion was the water wagon; drinking water was delivered regularly to the townspeople and in 1946 the price was 15¢ for five gallons or 20¢ for eight gallons.

For five consecutive years, from 1946 to 1950 the local Elks sponsored Frontier Days each June. On the sports grounds was an enclosure flanked by corrals, and a stampede which featured many well known riders and ropers of the rodeo circuit was held to the delight of many. A midway captured the nickels and dimes of all ages, especially the younger set, and local organizations sold hot dogs, coffee, pie and lemonade. Never since has there been lemonade to match that which was made at that time.

Although the town had had the benefit of electricity for some time, there were further developments. A large power station was constructed just north of the town, and by 1950 the running of the main transmission line to the south-east meant that farmers could now also benefit.

Fire safety received a certain amount of attention. A volunteer fire department was formed in 1948 and volunteers were paid 50¢ per practice and \$1 per hour





Main Street in Holden, a sea of mud, during the laying of sewer and water mains.



Holden water tower.

for fighting fires. A few years later, the fire hall (which also contained the jail cells) was built and a new pumper truck was purchased.

Also with the safety of district residents in mind, the light was installed at the Highway 14 junction in 1954.

School expansion was a top priority during this period of time. Holden School Division #17 became a part of the County of Beaver #9 and the school population soared. The children of the baby boom began school and during the fifties buses began bringing the country students to town.

Nor was the entertainment element of life ig-

nored. A bowling alley and billiard table served patrons in Bilyk's restaurant from 1947. In 1953, work began on the construction of a new theatre. For a short period of time, the town hosted two motion picture establishments as films were still being shown in the community hall. At the Paragon, kids were able to see a show and buy a bag of popcorn for 25¢.

The big event in latter years of the 1950's was the installation of water and sewer in the town. A surface water reservoir was secured just south of town and before long the age old Hallowe'en prank of tipping toilets became a thing of the past.

"Going to the city", was until well into the fifties, a long trip over gravelled road. Sunburst bus lines provided two buses daily (one each from Chauvin and Viking) and city goers at that time remember the Macdonald (hotel that is) as being the "large" building that stood out for miles as one approached Edmonton.

Life in the forties and fifties, was calm, still somewhat slow paced. Aside from the acquisition of some of the comforts of daily living, life in the Holden area remained decidedly rural.

Holden Today

Now, in the early 1980's, Holden and district is a decidedly different place. Over the past 20 years, the surrounding rural community has become far less populous as farms have grown in size in keeping with modern trends. Along with the rural younger people, the townfolk have more than before furthered their



Holden Main Street in 1983.

education first, or simply headed for large cities to seek employment. Thus the town has decreased in size and the business community is much smaller; main street in Holden is no longer the bustling place it once was. And for those who stayed, better roads and easy access to larger centers have reduced their businesses.

The face of the town itself has changed considerably. Numerous empty lots now stand where there once was a thriving main street. A new Post Office and Royal Bank serve the local people, beyond that, building in the town has been of a different nature.

In the late 1960's a large dining room and kitchen facilities were added to the community hall. This has seen extensive use for wedding celebrations and other large social events.

In the mid 70's, work began on the Complex, an Agricultural Society project which houses a three sheet curling rink and skating rink. It is also here that the annual Agribition is held and community residents show everything from their prize vegetables and animals to sewing and handiwork. The 1983 Fair will be the 8th annual since it was revived from the 20's.

The Senior Citizens' Drop-In Centre on Main Street is not only a welcome gathering spot for the retired, but also a source of pride to those who built it. They began with the demolition of Zane's Store, cleared the site, and with a New Horizons grant and generous local contributions built the new building. Only the special jobs, like wiring and plumbing, were contracted out and those who worked there kept well supplied with coffee and lunch by local ladies. So it was with special feelings that the Seniors of Holden opened their centre in 1979.

In the past few years, living accommodations for the Seniors have also been built. The Northview Manor, which stands north of the old creamery site, contains eight one-bedroom suites along with central washing facilities and meeting areas.

A Senior's lodge opened recently. Those who wish to retire and have all their needs tended to have that option available now in this 45 unit building.

Several new homes have sprung up over the past years; the northwest corner of town has become a mini subdivision and new houses grace the other streets and avenues as well.

In many of the small towns in Alberta, the flow is reversing. Young people are being drawn back to the community of their origins. Big cities do not necessarily fulfil their dreams and many find that raising children in a small center holds fewer risks. Possibly this trend will accelerate in Holden, and the controversy over the closing part of the school will die.

1983. Several people are hard at work, as they have been for the past two years, fashioning this history book. It is definitely a labor of love, and having grown up in this community, I am proud to have had the opportunity to be part of it.

Battleford To Edmonton Telegraph Line and Trail

submitted by Leona Koetke and Emily Chrystian

The construction of the western portion of the Dominion Telegraph line between Battleford and the approximate location of present day Leduc was com-

pleted in 1876. The line was extended to Edmonton in 1879.

The original section of the line between Battleford and Edmonton was constructed on the projected route for the C.P.R. It was expected that the railway would soon follow the telegraph and open up the northwest. Thus the telegraph was established on a route that was adequate for a railway, but entirely unsuitable for a telegraph line.

The line travelled through every description of country. Although a path was initially cleared for the line, it was allowed to become overgrown and branches resting on the line would interfere with the current. Prairie fires were a common occurrence and often miles of poles would burn down. Buffalo frequently rubbed against the poles, sometimes downing them.

The line generally followed a straight line taking the shortest route on a line passing south of Vermilion to Hay Lakes, going through Township 48, Range 15, 16 and south of Holden.

Plan for the railway was abandoned and the C.P.R. main line was constructed through Regina and Calgary.

The telegraph line was accompanied by a trail which was cleared at the same time as the route for the line, and was established for the convenience of repairman etc. The trail did not always follow the line, but was fairly close.

According to the Edmonton Bulletin January 21, 1882, "The trail was a fairly good road with plenty of wood and water, no large creeks to cross, and with only one considerable valley — the Grizzly Bear (north of Wainwright). The last 35 miles of the road from Hay Lakes however, was very bad, being hilly and through timber."

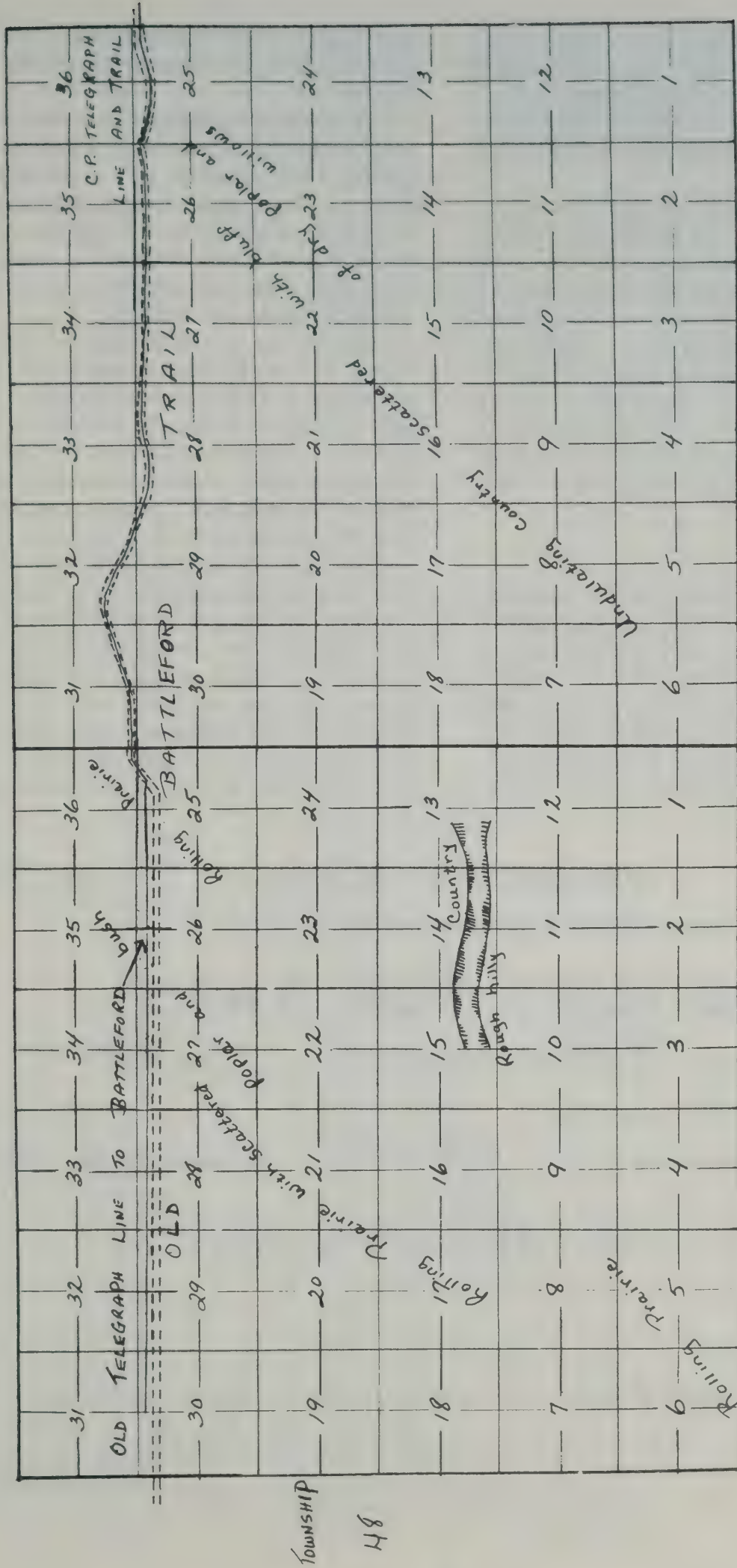
Telegraph service ceased permanently in 1887, but the trail remained in use for years afterwards by the early settlers. Although the line was frequently inoperative it did give invaluable service to the N.W.M.P. in maintaining communications between various outposts and Indian agencies, facilitated the transaction of business between isolated settlements, and was instrumental in dispatching news and medical advice in emergencies. Checker players also utilized the telegraph for playing long distance game.

During the life of the telegraph line, there is no record of stopping houses, but there were a number of shelters — repair huts located along the line for use by repairmen. When the railway route was proposed, names and locations of stations or sidings were also planned, however these places mostly remained imaginary. Some of them may have become locations for these repair huts.

One of these "Stations", named "Strang" was

RANGE 16

RANGE 15



MAP OF OLD TELEGRAPH LINE AND BATTLEFORD TRAIL
IN 1894.

located approximately 54 miles east of Leduc (Annual Report of the D. P. W. 1886), and on the western edge of 15 Mile Plain, which would place it somewhere south or southeast of present day Holden. W. E. McKinley was the repairman stationed here, appointed May 25, 1886.

The trail is visible in various places between Hay Lakes and Battleford. Lars Ritland and Steve Tkaczyk staked this route which was also called the "Battleford Trail" and ran through the counties of Beaver and Camrose to Wetaskiwin. The stakers information was augmented by A. L. Gibson and George Armstrong. Mr. Ritland and Mr. Tkaczyk erected signs marking the "Battleford Trail" in 1967-68, and despite warnings from the Department of Highways that the signs are illegal, they remain standing. The trail is likely evident in any spot that has not been cultivated.

Rural Government

During the early part of the century Local Improvement Districts were formed and each district consisted of four townships. After Alberta became a province the Local Improvement District operated under the Local Improvement Ordinance Act of 1907 and later under the Rural Municipalities Act of 1912 when the districts were enlarged to nine townships. In 1918 the Provincial Government passed a Munic-

ipal District Act. Under this act the organized L.I.D.'s and Rural Municipalities became Municipal Districts.

The area surrounding Holden was comprised of several Municipal Districts: the Municipal District of Patricia #485 served the area to the east and north; M.D. of Beaver Lake #486 was to the north and west; M.D. of Iron Creek #455 to the southeast; and the M.D. of Parkland #456 to the south and southwest. Each municipal district had its own secretary-treasurer, councillors and reeve.

In 1939 the school districts of the area from Tofield to Kinsella were grouped under the administration of the Holden School Division #17, with the office located in Holden. In 1943 the municipal districts surrounding Holden became The Municipal District of Ryley #480, which also included the M.D. of Cornhill #487 located in the area southwest of Ryley, part of the M.D. of Parkland was included and part of it was taken in by the M.D. of Camrose. The office was located in Ryley. In March of that year the name was changed to M.D. of Beaver #480. The first reeve was Henry Ovens. In 1945 the Department of Municipal Affairs assigned new numbers to many districts and this one became the M.D. of Beaver #73. In 1955 the boundaries were changed so that the M.D. and school districts covered the same territory.

In 1958 the Municipal District of Beaver #73

Series G

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

No 33071

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 24 W 4

\$ 3.50

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

Received from P. Porensen of Holden

the sum of

Three

50
100 DOLLAR

being amount due Local Improvement District

24 W 4

for Taxes for the year

1912

on the following Lands:

N 1/2 4 sec 36 - 47 - 17-4

Dated at

Regina

this

8

day of

July

191

Frank Edward

Secretary-Treasurer

received county status and became the County of Beaver #9. The first reeve was John P. Rozmahel, and the secretary-treasurer was Olaf Monsson. At this time the school administration was combined with the municipal government, and the offices of the

Holden School Division were moved into the county office in Ryley. At the present time (1983) the reeve is George Knudslien and the secretary-treasurer is Garth Bancroft. The Superintendent of Schools is Fred Reinholt.

Holden Village Council 1922-1983 (inclusive)

Year	Reeve	Councillors	Secretary-Treasurer
1922	H. McAfee	A. K. James, S. J. Farrell	A. G. Brown
1923	S. J. Farrell	S. Mumford, R. Emond	A. G. Brown
1924	S. J. Farrell	S. Mumford, R. Emond	A. G. Brown
1925	S. J. Farrell	A. K. James, E. Olsen	A. G. Brown
1926	S. J. Farrell	A. K. James, E. Olsen	A. G. Brown
	Mayor		
1927	S. J. Farrell	A. K. James, E. Olsen	A. G. Brown
1928	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. G. Brown
1929	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. G. Brown
1930	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. G. Brown
1931	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. T. Stewart
1932	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. T. Stewart
1933	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. T. Stewart
1934	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, T. White	A. T. Stewart
1935	S. J. Farrell	E. Olsen, W. Boyd	A. T. Stewart
1936	T. E. White	R. Emond, W. Boyd	M. L. Selkirk
1937	T. E. White	R. Emond, W. Boyd	M. L. Selkirk
1938	T. E. White	R. Emond, W. Boyd	M. L. Selkirk
1939	T. E. White	W. Boyd to Sept. W. J. Phillips elected	M. L. Selkirk.
1940	T. E. White	W. J. Phillips, E. Olsen	M. L. Selkirk
1941 (to Jan. 29)	T. E. White	W. J. Phillips, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1941 (Feb. 5)	T. E. White	W. Boyd, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1942	T. E. White	W. Boyd, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1943	T. E. White	W. Boyd, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1943 (June)	White resigned	W. Boyd, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1943 (Aug.)	W. Boyd	A. W. Foran, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1944 (Feb.)	A. W. Foran	W. Boyd, E. Olsen	N. L. Campbell
1945 (Feb. 20)	A. W. Foran	W. Boyd, J. J. Blake	N. L. Campbell
1946	A. W. Foran	S. Komarnisky, J. J. Blake	N. L. Campbell
1947	J. J. Blake	A. W. Foran, P. Owen	N. L. Campbell
1948	J. J. Blake	A. W. Foran, P. Owen	N. L. Campbell
1949	J. J. Blake	A. W. Foran, P. Owen	N. L. Campbell
1949 (Sept.)	J. J. Blake	A. W. Foran, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1950	J. J. Blake	A. W. Foran, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1951	A. E. Greenwood	S. Black, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1952	A. E. Greenwood	S. Black, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1953	A. E. Greenwood	S. Black, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1954	A. E. Greenwood	S. Black, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1955	S. Black	D. A. Bell, J. Thieme	N. L. Campbell
1956	S. Black	D. A. Bell, J. J. Blake	Irene Taylor
1957	J. J. Blake	D. A. Bell, J. Chamulke	C. Foran
1958	J. J. Blake	J. Thieme succeeded A. Bell, J. Chamulke	C. Foran
1959	J. Thieme	S. Komarnisky, J. Chamulke	C. Foran
1960	J. Chamulke-A. Johnson	S. Komarnisky, V. Dowhaniuk, M. Zacharchuk	C. Foran
1961	A. Johnson	V. Dowhaniuk, L. Kaluzny, M. Zacharchuk	R. Hovland
1962	A. Johnson	B. Budd, L. Kaluzny, R. Bohush	R. Hovland
1963	B. Budd	W. Rurka, J. Komarnisky, R. Bohush	R. Hovland
1964	B. Budd	J. Komarnisky, W. Rurka, J. Semotiuk, L. Olson, P. Babie	R. Hovland
1965	B. Budd	J. Komarnisky, W. Rurka, J. Semotiuk, L. Olson	R. Hovland
1966	L. Olson	W. Babie, L. Kaluzny, B. Budd, J. Semotiuk	R. Hovland
1967	L. Olson	W. Babie, L. Kaluzny, B. Budd, J. Semotiuk	R. Hovland
1968	L. Olson	Babie replaced by O. Shykora, J. Semotiuk, L. Kaluzny, B. Budd	R. Hovland
1969	J. Semotiuk	L. Olson, O. Shykora, A. Corliss, J. Stambaugh	R. Hovland
1970	J. Semotiuk	L. Olson, O. Shykora, A. Corliss, J. Stambaugh	R. Hovland & A. Sorensen
1971	J. Semotiuk	O. Shykora, J. Stambaugh, L. Olson, A. Corliss	R. Hovland
1972	S. Black	B. Budd, R. Mason, M. Malick, D. Cooper	A. Sorensen
1973	S. Black	B. Budd, R. Mason, M. Malick, D. Cooper	A. Sorensen

1974	S. Black	B. Budd, R. Mason, M. Malick, D. Cooper	A. Sorensen
1975	S. Black	B. Budd, P. Josey, M. Malick, H. Keller	A. Sorensen
1976	B. Budd	M. Helfrich, M. Malick, H. Keller	A. Sorensen
1977	B. Budd	M. Helfrich, M. Malick, H. Keller	A. Sorensen
1978	O. Shykora	M. Giebelhaus, J. Lemko, D. Danilak, C. Mackay	A. Sorensen
1979	O. Shykora	J. Stambaugh, J. Lemko, D. Danilak, M. Giebelhaus	C. Mackay
1980	O. Shykora	J. Lemko, D. Danilak, N. Shihinski, A. Shavchook	C. Mackay
	N. Shihinski replaced O. Shykora as Mayor in Dec.		
1981	N. Shihinski	D. Danilak, A. Shavchook, D. Cooper, P. Ogonoski	C. Mackay
1982	N. Shihinski	D. Danilak, A. Shavchook, D. Cooper, P. Ogonoski	C. Mackay
1983	N. Shihinski	D. Danilak, A. Shavchook, D. Cooper, P. Ogonoski	C. Mackay

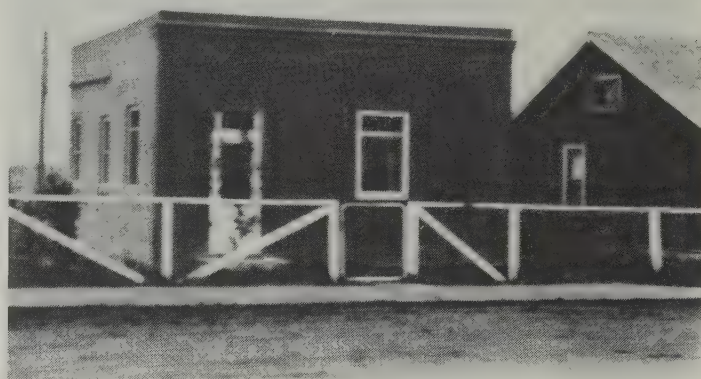
Alberta Government Telephone

Information submitted by Tony Cashman

The telephone came to Holden in 1910 when Alberta Government Telephone extended long distance from Tofield to Wainwright and William E. Hayes was named first agent of the toll office.

In 1913 a major advancement occurred: 30' tamarack poles were used in place of the standard long distance pole which stood 20' above ground, and 5' under. The toll office was replaced by an exchange serving 15 town and 39 rural subscribers.

In the beginning telephone equipment was on premises supplied by the agent. In 1918, A.G.T. put its own building, on Block 11 Lot 32 for which \$300.00 was paid. The building was brick veneer, 24' by 28'. It was heated by a stove, piped for gas lighting, but wired for electric light when power for that form of illumination became available.



First telephone office, block 11, lot 32.



Ed Logan and Bernt Chetney bringing first telephone poles to this district from Wetaskiwin.

HOBHEMA **TOLL OFFICE**

HOLDEN **Day Service**

1918

EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS

- 16 Alberta Lumber Co Ltd
- 10 Brown Alex G Real Estate Main St
- 12 Christianson Fred res 3rd Ave E
- 19 Dorin A M res Main St
- 3 Farrell Dr J S Office and Drug Store
- 8 Farrell Dr J S res 3rd Ave W
- 5 Holden Herald Printers & Publishers Main St
- 6 Holden Supply Co General Merchants Main St
- 9 Ring 2 Hurum H General Merchant Main St
- 9 Ring 3 Hurum H res 3rd Ave W
- 13 Johnson Lars res 3rd Ave W
- 7 Johnson's Livery 3rd Ave W
- 21 Longmate C E Main St
- 17 McAfee Hardware Co Main St
- 18 Nelson A B res Main St
- 20 Osborne E L
- 11 Prairie Elevator Co Ltd
- 1 Royal Bank of Canada Main St
- 15 Stewart A T Implements Main St
- 14 Stewart A T res
- 23 Stewart A T res 3rd Ave W
- 2 United Grain Growers Ltd

RURAL SUBSCRIBERS

- R 312 Adams School District 890—Holden
- R1003 Afseth Chris—Holden
- R 315 Albrecht C—Holden
- R 310 Albrecht P—Holden
- R 607 Appleby Harry—Holden
- R 608 Appleby Thos—Holden
- R 214 Barlow Thos G P—Holden
- R 903 Bratud T O—Earling
- R 102 Brisbin C N—Holden
- R 203 Burnstad O—Holden
- R 118 Burnstad S H—Holden
- R 110 Campbell W—Holden
- R 113 Carlson C A—Holden
- R 204 Chetney B—Holden
- R 109 Christensen Hans—Holden
- R 108 Christensen T—Holden
- R 106 Christiansen E J—Holden
- R 602 Clark W A—Holden
- R 215 Condro Sam—Holden
- R 403 Connolly P—Holden
- R1004 Courtney J A—Holden
- R1005 Courtney T O—Holden
- R 211 Daily M B—Holden
- R 706 Dorin A M—Holden
- R1105 Edinger J R—Holden
- R 805 Erickson P A—Holden
- R 809 Evenson A—Earling
- R 506 Farynor F—Quarrel
- R 705 Fiske A E—Holden
- R 115 Fjellstrom Otto—Holden
- R 111 Foran A W—Holden
- R1109 Fosse P M—Daysland
- R1107 Gabrielson G G—Daysland
- R 117 Gailley J E—Holden
- R 311 Giebelhaus H—Holden
- R 704 Grosland A—Holden
- R 303 Hammer R O—Martins
- R 316 Hanson M S—Holden
- R 908 Haseby H—Holden
- R 112 Hayes W E—Holden

- R 807 Hillickson A—Holden
- R 407 Holden G J—Holden
- R 906 Hovland L M—Holden
- R 314 Jacobson J—Holden
- R1103 Jensen L P—Holden
- R 806 Johnson E A—Holden
- R 910 Johnson Gust—Holden
- R 905 Johnson K—Holden
- R 902 Johnson Sam—Holden
- R 802 Kennedy Thos—Holden
- R 611 Kjosness P S—Holden
- R 507 Klieban Anton—Kopernik
- R1104 Koetke Fred—Holden
- R 510 Kosinski Mike—Kopernik
- R1007 Kruger Albert—Holden
- R 308 Languin S J—Holden
- R 502 Larson Olof—Holden
- R 416 Lemm M—Holden
- R 604 Lindbeck Carl—Holden
- R 213 Logan Alford E—Holden
- R 205 Logan E C—Holden
- R 606 Longridge School—Holden
- R 603 Lund Jno—Holden
- R1006 McCarter Geo W—Holden
- R1110 McCarter U G—Quarrel
- R 305 McLarty D—Bruce
- R 707 McVittie Wm L—Holden
- R 414 Maruszczyka G—Holden
- R 511 Maruszczyka Jno—Kopernik
- R1008 Mohler Geo—Holden
- R 306 Mossland J J—Holden
- R 909 Nasland J P—Holden
- R 309 Nordstrom A—Holden
- R 503 Ogonoski L—Kopernik
- R 702 Olson Andrew—Holden
- R 409 Olson Isaac—Holden
- R 408 Olson Wm—Holden
- R 104 Peterson A—Holden
- R 703 Phillips Wm—Holden
- R 505 Polska School District No 1948—Kopernik
- R 411 Pritchard J E—Holden
- R 609 Proctor Dean—Holden
- R 304 Raaen & Thoreson—Bruce
- R 206 Rilland L B—Holden
- R 107 Rosett J—Holden
- R1108 Sandstrom School—Quarrel
- R 911 Sandvik H—Earling
- R 218 Schmolke F—Holden
- R 404 Scona School—Holden
- R 810 Sherfey Wm R—Holden
- R 413 Sizer Dick—Holden
- R 412 Sizer E—Holden
- R 808 Smorlie O E—Holden
- R 904 Sorenson Peter—Holden
- R 907 Sorgen O P—Holden
- R1002 Storr & Mastin—Holden
- R 210 Story G T—Holden
- R 212 Story Jno A—Holden
- R 509 Szczurek Jan—Kopernik
- R1102 Szebinski F—Holden
- R 803 Tangen A A—Holden
- R 804 Tangen Peter—Holden

- R 216 Vermilion Valley School District No 1087—Holden
- R 406 Wear Frank—Holden
- R 610 Wohl J—Holden
- R 116 Wolfe Harvey—Holden
- R 302 Zwierschke A G—Holden

A five man crew bossed by the famous Bill Dugan was in Holden from April 4th to April 10th, 1918 moving the equipment to the new building. Their board and lodging for the week cost A.G.T. \$46.50, and rail fare from Edmonton came to \$17.25.

The great depression of the 1930's affected the telephone business as it did all others. A.G.T. was unable to maintain rural service and farmer-owned co-ops had to operate their own lines. The Holden Mutual Telephone Co. took over in 1934. The South Mutual began operation in 1947 and the Bruce Mutual Telephone Co. in 1952.



Second telephone office, block 11, lot 32.

The next big date was in August 1966 when the Holden office and the mutual companies passed into history with conversion to automatic dial service and rural buried cable lines.

HOLDEN 1932

Semi-continuous Service

EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS

16 ALBERTA LUMBER CO
C Tiedemann Mgr

11 Alberta Pacific Grain Co Ltd
22 Alberta Wheat Pool
17 Allan's Hardware Donald Allan

6 BLACK M General Merchant
12 Black M res
4 Breach Frank E res

13 Canadian National Rail
3 Farrell Dr S J M.D. Office
8 Farrell Dr S J res
33 Fleming Wm J res
7 Goodwin Mrs J F res

24 Holden Cafe—Mah Hong
20 Holden Creamery Burns
38 Holden Garage

18 HOLDEN MOTORS LTD
Ford & Fordson Deak

15 James A K Implements
39 Kaiser Fred res

25 KING GEORGE HOTEL
Hanlan

37 Koetke F A F Insurance & r
28 Komarnisky Steve res

34 MODEL CAFE
36 Northern Elevator Co Ltd

9 NU-WAY STORES LTD
T A Liden

21 People's Meat Market The
1 Royal Bank of Canada
26 Searle Grain Co Ltd

10 STEWART A T Real
2 United Grain Growers Ltd

29 WHITE THOS E Real
Solicitor etc

32 White Thos E res

RURAL SUBSCRIBERS

R 315 Albrecht C—Vegreville
R 903 Bratrud T O—Holden
R 109 Christensen Hans—H
R 108 Christensen T—Holden
R 603 Christenson Magnus
R 609 Christiansen E J—H
R 617 Clark W A—Holden
R 604 Crimmin Neal—Holden
R 712 Cybryk P—Holden
R 304 Giebelhaus John A—H
R 407 Holden G J—Holden
R 908 Huseby H—Holden
R 314 Jacobson J—Holden
R 1105 Jensen N F—Holden
R 611 Kjosness P S—Holden
R 1006 Koetke Oscar H F—H
R 1104 Koetke Otto W—Holden
R 205 Logan E C—Holden
R 414 Maruszczyka G—H
R 1008 Mohler Geo—Holden
R 905 Naslund Andrew O—H
R 703 Phillips Wm—Holden
R 202 Pokraka Jas W—H
R 606 Pooler Alfred Edward
R 713 Sanderson A—Holden
R 907 Sorgen O P—Holden
R 803 Taylor Geo H—Holden
R 616 Timchak L—Holden

Phone subscribers in 1932.

Agency	Agent	Bond	Salary or Comm.	Date
Holden	Osborne, Eugene L.	\$350.00	\$40.00	Sept. 1/1915
	Irwin, Thos J.	\$300.00	\$60.00	Apl. 8/1918
	(Bond Changed)	\$350.00		Oct. 1/1918
	Robertson, J. W.	\$350.00	\$60.00	Apl. 1/1919
	Robertson, J. W.	\$350.00	\$70.00	June 1/1919
	Robertson, J. W.	\$350.00	\$85.00	Oct. 1/1919
	Sorgen, Miss Emma	\$350.00	\$85.00	May 26/1920
	(Bond Changed)	\$500.00		Dec. 1/1920
	(Bond Changed)	\$800.00		Apl. 1/1922
	Sorgen, Miss Agnes	\$800.00	\$85.00	Sept. 1/1925
	Sorgen, Miss Agnes	\$800.00	\$90.00	Nov. 1/1929
	(Bond Changed)	\$500.00		Mar. 1/1930
	Sorgen, Miss Opal	\$500.00	\$90.00	July 16/1930
	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$90.00	July 31/1930
	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$60.00	Dec. 1/1932
	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$55.00	Apl. 1/1933
	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$50.00	July 1/1933
Day Service	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$45.00	Jan. 1/1934
	Forsythe, Mrs. Bessie	\$500.00	\$46.50	July 1/1935
	(Bond Changed)	\$200.00		Jan. 1/1937
	Forsythe, Glen A.	\$200.00	\$46.50	Nov. 1/1938
	Hayes, Mrs. Lila Effylynne			May 1/39
Continuous Service	Willson, Mrs. D. T.		\$92.40	July 1/1942
Holden				
Continuous Service.	Bartsch, Mrs. Florence L.	\$200.00	\$101.20	March 1/1943

	Keats, Mrs. Margaret (Temporary — one month)		August 1/1947
	Bartsch, Mrs. Florence	\$90.00	October 1/1948
	(Increase in Salary)		
	Sanderson, Mrs. Bertha (Temporary)		July 1/1950
	Bartsch, Mrs. Florence L.	Salary	Oct. 1/1950
	(Bond Changed)	\$300.00	December 1948
	(Bond Changed)	\$400.00	January 1/1951
	Sanderson, Mrs. Bertha	\$400.00	Salary Aug. 1/1951
(G.S.A.)	Sanderson, Mrs. Bertha	\$513.00	January 1/1957
		less \$25.00	
		rent	
Acting — Agent	Foran, Mrs. Frieda	\$513.00	April 1/1958
	Sanderson, Mrs. B.	\$513.00	June 1/1958
	Sanderson, Mrs. Bertha	continuous service to	
		\$946.37	July 1/1966

Office closed due to dial conversion effective August 7, 1966

Northwestern Utilities in Holden submitted by Northwestern Utilities

The history of natural gas service in Holden is closely tied with the history of Northwestern Utilities. Holden was one of the first six communities to receive natural gas service from the company. Gas arrived in 1923 because of Holden's location along the "main line" installed to deliver gas from the Viking field to Edmonton. With the construction of 18 miles of field lines, 77 miles of transmission line and the necessary regulating station, Northwestern Utilities began to serve customers in Edmonton, Tofield, Ryley, Holden, Bruce and Viking.



Laying the gas line between Viking and Edmonton around 1920.

Since that time, Northwestern Utilities has kept pace with the growth experienced in Holden. At the end of 1971, the customer count in the community was 245; this increased to 272 customers by the end of 1981.

A number of district agents have maintained Northwestern's tradition of service within Holden. Leslie G. Raymond, who started with the company

in 1923, first established the Holden agency in 1944. The original house and office was located on 50th Ave. At that time, Holden was the central point for rural operations in the Tofield-Vegreville area. Mr. Raymond retired in 1951 and was succeeded by Sid Smith, who held the position for two years. Norman Lloyd acted as local agent from 1953 until 1956, when John Story took over. He was followed in 1960 by Dennis Cooper, who still oversees Holden's Agency needs from the Tofield central office.

The agency remained based in Holden, from the new office-residence on 51 Ave, until 1977 when it was relocated in Tofield. Mr. Cooper and his family continue to live in Holden.

Holden Area History of TransAlta Utilities

TransAlta Utilities has been serving Albertans since 1911, in the towns and cities in the rural areas. The Holden District of TransAlta's service area was formed in 1942 when the company was still known as Calgary Power Ltd.

Virge Nelson became the first district manager in the area in 1942, and his son Ed Nelson later became an assistant district manager in the Holden District.

Virge was replaced in 1946 by Herb Hunter, who held the position until 1953, when Don Gillespie took over as Holden District Manager. It was while Don was district manager that the 69 kilovolt tie line from Holden to Vegreville was constructed, creating an intertie with Alberta Power Limited's system. The year was 1955, and prior to that the Holden area was served from Bardo.

1955 was also the year the main substation, 53S, was built on the north end of town to serve Holden and the surrounding area. In 1975 it was taken out of service, and the 395S North Holden substation was

commissioned in the same year. There are three 138 kilovolt lines out of this substation, one from Bardo, one to Vegreville and one to intertie with an Alberta Power line which originates in Forestburg.

The original Holden District encompassed the area between Tofield and Kinsella, and in 1954 when the Tofield District was formed, Holden's area was split approximately in half. Holden's current service area roughly encompasses an area from Ryley on the west to Kinsella on the east, and from the correction line to the south to a staggered line just north of Holden, shared with Alberta Power.

Two rural electrification associations were also formed in the Holden District during the time Don Gillespie was district manager. The Bruce R.E.A. and the Viking R.E.A. both registered Memorandum of Association papers in April 1954.

The original Board of Directors for the Bruce R.E.A. included John Skolney, Leo Maruszczyk, Nick Laskoski, J. D. Faryna, Fred Laskoski, L. A. Stambaugh and Arthur Ham.

Original petitioners for the Bruce R.E.A. were M. H. Mulick, Peter Komarnisky, P. G. Motkoski and the Board of Directors.

John Skolney and Arthur Ham signed the memorandum of agreement in December 1954, and the original services in the Bruce R.E.A. numbered 113. This number increased and in December, 1981, there were 209 services in the Bruce R.E.A.

At the same time Bruce was busy organizing into a rural electrification association, another group of men were forming the Viking R.E.A. The original Board of Directors included Phil Swift, George Cottrell, Russell Dennett, Harry McKinney, Sam Klein, Arnold These and Bud Hanson.

Original petitioners for the Viking R.E.A. included the Board of Directors, Harold Speers, T. B. Gotobed and J. E. Reishus.

In December 1954, Phil Swift and J. E. Currie signed the Memorandum of Agreement, and 76 farm services became part of the original Viking R.E.A. The Viking R.E.A. also increased, and in December, 1981 boasted 176 services.

In 1958 Don Gillespie moved on, and Milt Taranger became the Holden District Manager, where he stayed until late 1961. In 1959, a year after Milt was appointed district manager, Gordie Bowmen became assistant district manager for the area.

He was replaced by Bob Moen, who was Holden's assistant district manager until 1961.

In late 1961 Murray Richardson replaced Milt Taranger as district manager for the Holden area, and Paul Laustsen became the assistant district manager, the position he held until 1968.

Murray Richardson was transferred in early

1963, and Les Sarsfield spent most of 1963 as district manager. When Les was transferred, Chester Wright took over, and he retained the position until early 1970. Meanwhile, in 1968 Bob MacKay took over Paul Laustsen's position, and he was assistant district manager until 1976.

Willy Liske became the Holden district manager in early 1970, and Willy was manager until November 1973 when Bill Hallett replaced him. Bill left the company in late 1981 and Jack Landon was appointed the Holden District Manager in March 1982. Assistant District Manager since 1976, Mel Haas continues his duties with Jack.

Since 1981 the Holden office has been assisted by a secretary. Mrs. Valerie Golka from 1981-82 and Mrs. Joyce Wilkinson from 1982 to the present time.

Expansion of services and the hard work involved kept TransAlta's staff in Holden busy, and they still found time to become valuable members in the Holden community.

Holden Doctors

The country doctors who served our community faithfully, regardless of the hour, the weather, the roads or mode of transportation, are to be saluted here. The hardships they endured are all tributes to their dedication.

The following is a list of those who served. We apologize if the names of any have been inadvertently omitted.

Resident Doctors

Dr. Coultan
Dr. Farrell
Dr. Archibald
Dr. Roper
Dr. Griffith
Dr. Byers
Dr. Johns.
Dr. Mason

Dr. Siegel

Dr. Wright

Dr. Calo

Non Resident Doctors

Dr. Law

Dr. Singh

Dr. Booth

Dr. Toliver

Dr. Robertson.

Holden Health Unit

submitted by Mrs. E. Kwasney (Nee Jen Fodchuk) — Public Health Nurse, March, 1943 — June, 1946

I think the Unit came into existence about 1940 and served a large area, about 10 miles west of Tofield to Round Hill, 15 miles south of Holden, east to Irma and north to the correction line. The village of Ryley was not included in the Unit at the time.

I was employed from March, 1943 to June, 1946 at which time Dr. Cuts was the Medical Health Officer. Miss Ruth Gilchrist was the Senior Nurse when I arrived but left in about 1944 and was replaced by Miss Marion Murray. Elsie Salamandick was a steno



The old Holden Health Unit building.

for several years during 1943-46. I think Dr. Cuts left about 1945.

The office was located in a small building approximately 900 sq. ft. one block east of the hotel. The nurses lived in the hotel and one year when the hotel renovations were in progress and living accommodation was scarce, we lived in the Medical Health Officer's examining room in the Unit office. Since there were no cooking facilities we ate at the local cafe.

There was only one car in the Unit which made it necessary for two nurses to travel together. This was to our advantage particularly in spring and winter when invariably we got stuck in mud or snow and required a driver and pusher!

Work schedule was heavy, regular well baby clinics were held in villages and outlying areas, regular visits were made to rural schools (sometimes 4-5 schools per day) to immunize school children as well as infants and pre-school children in the surrounding area. Due to lack of cars and rationing of gasoline during the war, many parents came to the schools by wagon or buggy or sleigh.

Home visiting was a very important part of the program, visits to mothers with newborn infants were made to advise on feeding and need for immunization to prevent communicable diseases. To effectively control communicable diseases such as scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and diphtheria, quarantine regulations were carried out. Placards with name of disease were placed on the front door of the homes for the quarantine period.

Examinations of school children were carried out to detect visual, dental defects and other medical problems, however, correction of defects depended largely on the financial status of parents since health insurance was unheard of.

Occasionally nurses were called upon to attend ill patients when medical services were not available. Although treatment was limited and not in our job description, reassurance and advice was important at a time of real need.

Removal of tonsils was common, operations on children were performed at central points in the morning and patients released in the afternoon, a rather risky procedure.

The health inspector carried out regular inspections of restaurants and hotels. He also visited rural schools to ensure safe drinking water for school children. Since that was the day of privies, the health inspector determined distance and locations of privies from wells to prevent contamination of the water supply.

Shortage of supplies during the war made it necessary to re-use tongue blades, needles and syringes. After a day's work, this equipment was properly cleaned and sterilized for use the following day.

In the 1940's, the emphasis was primarily on nutrition, control of communicable disease and immunization against whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever and small pox.

In the summer of 1943 a Nutrition Camp organized by the Lamont Health Unit for under-nourished children was held at Elk Island Park. The Holden Health Unit was invited to include under-nourished children from their area and numerous children were sent. Here nutritious meals and health education were the theme of the camp.

The Holden Health Unit was amalgamated into the Vegreville Health Unit in December, 1952 at which time Holden became the sub-office of the Vegreville Health Unit.

Holden Health Unit Staff:

Medical Officer of Health — Dr. D. Henderson
(1947-48)

Steno — Dora Faryna (1947-1953)

Public Health Inspector — John Donnan
(1943-1963)

Public Health Nurses:

Gwen Vaughn (1948-49)
Peggy Milner (1948-
Mrs. Pat Adams (1952-58)
Mrs. Mary Erickson (1956-57)
Miss Lucille Sells (1958-60)
Miss Audrey Allard (1960-61)
Miss Nettie Feschuk (1960-65)
Miss Marianne Michlich (1961-62)
Mrs. Ruth Ash (1962-70)
Miss Victoria Balaban (1965-66)
Miss Joan Smith (1966-67)
Miss Elaine Olson (1967-70)
Miss Kathryn Dandy (1970-72)
Miss Rae Sorenson (1972-74)
Mrs. Lorraine Irwin (1972-75)
Mrs. Linda Ellsworth (1974-77)

Miss Mary Kristapovich (1975-78)
Mrs. Janet Kiist (nee McLevin) (1977-81)
Mrs. Sylvia Burden (nee Perin) (1978 — presently employed)
Shirley Schooler (1981 — presently employed)

United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited

submitted by Allan Zwierschke

The United Farmers of Alberta came into being in 1909 when the Canadian Society of Equity and Alberta Farmers Association amalgamated.

In the early days, U.F.A. contributed greatly to activating the community life and U.F.A. local were organized in nearly all parts of the province. In districts where there was an active U.F.A. local, the members were kept well informed on community and provincial problems.

The U.F.A. lent its staff and officers in the organization of the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1923. Other co-operatives assisted were the Egg and Poultry Pool, livestock and dairy pools, Co-operative Implements Ltd., Co-operative Life Insurance Company and Co-op Fire and Casualty.

In 1918, U.F.A. had its charter amended for its first entry into commerce. Locals saved money by purchasing carload quantities of some of the bulk items needed on the farm.

In 1932, U.F.A. Central Co-operative was set up to co-ordinate the buying power of all the locals. Business conducted was on a carload basis, bulk items only and with limited volume.

The following are some of the secretaries of "Locals" (now dissolved):

Haight	Peter Hrabec
Holmdene	Michael N. Zowtuk
Kopernick	John Skolney
Longridge	Albin Lukawiecki
Myroslaw Com. Centre	Paul Shtokal
Poe	Art W. Gibson
Polska	S. W. Wandio
Salt Lake	Nick Kushnerick

In 1935, U.F.A. entered the petroleum distribution field and in 1957 purchased Maple Leaf Petroleum Ltd. from Imperial Oil and became a full scale petroleum marketer. These agents have operated Holden U.F.A. since the take-over:

Mr. Peter (Pat) Komarnisky retiring in 1950:

Mr. Hilmer Olsen and Mr. George Armstrong 1950-1969 at which time Hilmer purchased the shares from George and continued the operation until May 31st, 1980;

Bert and Bobbie Schweitzer took over the agency in June 1980 and are the present operators.

In 1953 the Farm Supply Division was re-structured and the first Farm Supply Centre was opened in Calgary. U.F.A. is Alberta's largest Farm Supply Co-

operative (50,000 members) in business to serve Alberta's Food producers and their communities.

Today U.F.A. has 125 Petroleum Agencies and Member Associations strategically located in Alberta. There are 27 modern Farm Supply Centres also located throughout Alberta to serve its members.

United Grain Growers Ltd. Elevator by Lyle Grosland

The United Grain Growers elevator was first known as the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company Ltd. and the first general meeting was held in Calgary in 1913. The meeting was attended by A. Peterson, A. Hellekson and S. J. Langum of Holden. Holden was one of the first locals to sell 134 shares at \$60.00 per share, a total of \$8,040.00, enough to build an elevator and a house for the elevator operator. The elevator built then held approximately 34,000 bushels which today seems small.

The first year the company handled 43,902 bushels, one carload of flour and three carloads of coal; the second year 66,562 bushels, one carload of flour and three carloads of coal.

Then the elevator became known as United Grain Growers in 1917 on the amalgamation of Alberta Farmers Company and the Grain Growers Company to form U.G.G.

In 1938 fire destroyed the elevator and a new one was built and opened in the spring of 1939. In 1941 two annexes were built; one is still there but soon will be replaced. The other one was sold in 1945 to Mr. Bernt Chetney to be dismantled.

Records of 1911-12 show two companies at Holden at that time, Prairie Elevator Co. and Security Elevator Co.

The first manager at Holden was C. P. Nairn, since then there have been many different managers, fourteen in all, some for a short time and others such as Ben Evenson, Wm. Hopkins and Len Sawers serving eight to eleven years.

Local board members have changed during the years but records show that some have spent a number of years on the board. The first secretary, A. Hellekson, served for eleven years, N. L. Campbell sixteen years, others for shorter periods. Chairmen have varied through the years but the one who has served longest as chairman of the local board is Lyle Grosland, who was elected in 1950 and remained as chairman until 1982.

The following are the elevator managers who served with the United Grain Growers over the years: C. P. Nairn, J. A. McDonald, B. O. Evenson, W. D. Hopkins, J. E. Judd, C. W. Hoeght, A. G. Stanton, D. K. Simmans, L. J. Sawers, Don Coutu, Floyd

Meyer, Steve Warawa, Lud. Banack, Jim Paul and Henry Puzey, the present manager.

Alberta Wheat Pool

Elevator #1 was a 35,000 bushel elevator built in 1927. In 1940 a 35,000 bushel balloon annex was built, and a 45,000 bushel cribbed annex was added in 1950. In 1966 a 55,000 bushel crib annex was moved to site #1 from site #3. On July 24, 1969 the elevator, balloon annex and 45,000 bushel annex were destroyed by fire. The Alberta Wheat Pool built a new 50,000 bushel elevator and an 80,000 bushel annex in 1969, which are still in operation today.



Alberta Wheat Pool elevator destroyed by fire, July 24, 1969.

Elevator #2 consisted of a 48,000 bushel elevator built in 1949 and two larger annexes built in 1940. These were all purchased from Federal Grain Ltd. in 1972. One annex was sold and dismantled in 1981. The elevator and one annex are still in operation.

Elevator #3 was a 31,000 bushel elevator and annex built in 1932, and two more annexes were added in 1940 and 1966. These were all purchased from Federal Grain Ltd. in 1972. One annex was sold and dismantled in 1974, and another was sold in 1979 and dismantled in 1980. A third annex was moved to site #1 in 1966. The elevator was closed in 1981 and converted to a bulk fertilizer storage plant and is in operation today.

From 1932 to 1981 the total grain handlings were 360,108 tonnes. In 1980-81, Holden had the highest handlings for a one year period of 33,556 tonnes. The lowest handlings were in 1945-46 of 692 tonnes.

The managers who have been with the Holden elevators are : Elevator #1 and #2; S. M. Edworthy

(1928-39), L. L. Bell (1939-70). Elevator burned July 24, 1969 and reopened February 16, 1970. N. D. A. Lefsrud (1970-74), W. J. Dary (1974 to present). Elevator #3; N. Sidor (1972-76), D. W. Clark (1976-79), W. J. Dary (1979 to present).

The delegates for the Holden area were: W. Halsell of Killam (1923), P. C. Hudson, Bawlf (1924), Andrew Holmberg, Viking (1925), W. J. Dilane, Viking (1926), Andrew Holmberg, Viking (1927-28), Johnston Ferguson, Tofield (1929), Ben Anderson, Tofield (1930-35), E. A. Moen, Tofield (1936-54), Donald Hoar, Ponoka (1955), E. A. Moen, Tofield (1956-57), Ingvald Ness, Kingman (1958-75), William Banack, Camrose (1976-81), Lars Rude, Tofield (1982 to the present).

The directors for Holden were; George Bennett of Manville (1927-43), E. K. Keith, Sexsmith (1944), G. L. Harrold, Lamont (1945-54), Gerald Oberg, Forestburg (1955-63), Arne Johnson, Camrose (1964-75), Parke Dobson, Paradise Valley (1976-82), Doug Livingston, Vermilion (1982 to present).

The Paragon Theatre

The Paragon Theatre, a structure forty feet wide and one hundred thirty feet long, was erected in 1952, the enterprise of Nick Bilyk and Harry Pooke of Holden and Joe Dubuc of Vegreville. It was built by local carpenters, Adam and Con Giebelhaus.

Behind the silver screen were fairly sizable two storey living quarters where the operator and his family could live. The front housed a large foyer, ticket cages, a storage room, lavatories, the concession booth, a crying room with a speaker and dimmer lights, while the upstairs was a special projection room. The main part of the theatre held 280 seats with two aisles and a big screen.

This edifice was a successful venture for some time, but with the coming of television and its increasing popularity, the theatre patrons gradually diminished and it was sold to Philip Mae of Wainwright in 1960. He ran it until 1962 when Bert Appleby bought and operated it for two or three years. The Holden Community then rented the building and ran it for a season when it closed and remained idle until the County of Beaver, under the able leadership of George Baker, the Recreation Director, used some cultural grants from the Heritage Fund to renovate it around 1978. A stage was built and it was refurnished. Special lighting was installed, and the acoustics that impressed some famous entertainers gave rise to many compliments on the structure.

Live theatre under the directorship of Joan Dunham of Tofield presented a play annually for three years. These performers were local residents of Beaver County. Talent hitherto unknown to the gen-

eral public has been shared when church choirs and bands have gripped audiences with inspirational music. Other entertainment of considerable variety has also been enjoyed.

For some time now the Beaver Regional Arts Society has been making an effort to keep the theatre viable.

Royal Bank of Canada as submitted by Royal Bank

The Holden branch opened November 1, 1909 by the Traders Bank of Canada which was taken over in 1912 by Royal Bank of Canada.

Early Industries — Farming.



Royal Bank Staff — 1929. Nora Villetard, Bill Fleming (mgr.), Gordon McKee, Mr. Stokes, Calvin MacPherson, Sherman Forre.

Managers	From — To	Remarks
G. E. McVittie	1909-1912	Sick Leave
A. W. Foran	1912-1913	Relieving Officers
G. E. McVittie	1913-1921	Retired due to ill health
A. J. Cameron	1921-1924	Transferred to Taber
H. W. Hutchings	1924-1929	Died

W. J. Fleming	1929-1944	To Grande Prairie
T. A. Horn	1944-1949	To Hanna
H. S. Beveridge	1949-1967	Retired on Pension
W. G. Langford	1967-1970	To Evansburg
G. A. J. Feeney	1970-1972	To Sexsmith
R. D. Court	1972-1975	Resigned
C. M. Schaning	1975-1979	To Gibbons
D. Mackenzie	1979-	

The following is a brief history of two of Holden’s early bank managers.



The old bank building.

G. E. McVittie

Mr. G. E. McVittie was appointed Manager at the princely salary of \$850.00 — per annum! He apparently took a six month leave of absence in 1912 because of ill health. He retired from the bank in 1921 at the age of 37 due to ill health. We have no further information on Mr. McVittie. By this time, his salary had reached the handsome sum of \$2,400.00 per annum.



Bank Staff 1943: Vivian Fowler, Marion Peterson, Olive Armstrong, Dorothy Geeson, Mrs. Alvin Fuhr, Alice Oslund.

H. W. Hutchings

Mr. H. W. Hutchings was under instructions to proceed to Cardston branch as Manager when he suffered an attack of acute peritonitis. The story is that it was necessary to take him to Edmonton for treatment. Ambulance service was not available in those days so the ingenuity of the locals came into play. A stretcher was fashioned out of one of the doors from the bank — the flyer to Edmonton was flagged down and he was placed, of all places, in the baggage car, simply because the homemade stretcher wouldn't fit anywhere else on the train. While every effort was made to help Mr. Hutchings, he passed away on January 6th, 1929. His widow, Boyda, is, at the time of this writing, alive and living in Calgary.



New Royal Bank, opened Aug. '78.

Holden Lodge

In the spring of 1980 Alberta Housing purchased the land at the east end of the sports grounds. Construction started on a forty-four bed lodge in the fall of 1980 which was completed early in the spring of 1982. Open house was held on Thursday April 29, 1982. The guest book was signed by 295 people who were in attendance. On May 1, 1982 the lodge was opened to residents.

Board of Directors consisted of Ed Albrecht,



Senior Citizens' Lodge.

Sylvia Burden, Dennis Danylak, Laurie Foster and Eugene Ewasiuk. The members of the staff under the leadership of the matron Helen Bilyk were: Shirley Palko, Jean Lemko, Eugenia Shimko, Lillian Macahonic, Lori Kiziak, Mary Gardecki, Pearl Tkaczyk, Donna Komarnisky, Terrie Kawalilak, Florence Pooke, Michelle Mulder and Dmetro Suchy.

There have been 25 residents during the first year of operation.

Holden Cemetery

The early history of Holden Cemetery is vague as all records were destroyed in a fire. It is located on the N.E. ¼ 14-49-16 and contains five acres. The land was originally part of Archie Appleby's homestead. It's known that burials took place from 1908 to 1910, and that Mrs. Lindbeck was buried there in 1912. Whether Mr. Appleby just let them use the site we're not sure, but when Martin Burnstad bought the land, he donated that piece to the village, and it was 1918 when it was incorporated.

In 1914 tenders were advertised for someone to fence the cemetery as it was becoming a cow pasture. As none were received, a day in June was set to fence the cemetery. The posts were donated by John Appleby.

During these early years a large hole was dug in the hill on the north side where a vault was to be built in which to house bodies during the winter so digging graves would not be necessary then. This project never materialized beyond the hole in the hillside.

In 1923 Mr. Driscoll of Edmonton was authorized to survey the cemetery and prepare five sets of blue prints. The plots were to be 10 by 20 instead of 20 by 20.

Clean up days were held during those early years, the ladies aids taking turns preparing coffee and taking it out to the workers.

Myron Appleby and Taale Thompson looked after the cemetery for many years. In 1944 a group of interested citizens got together and formed the cemetery committee. The first president was Lyle Grosland, the position he still holds. The vice president was Lewie Ritland. The secretary was Mrs. Beth Campbell, the position she held until 1976 when she retired and Ethel Brekstad took over.

The first treasurer was Mrs. Jack Reay, then Kate Nichols and Grace Foran acted until 1961 when Kathleen Hurum took over as treasurer and still holds that position. The first directors were Doris Story, Grace Foran, Harry Appleby and Don Allan.

In 1969, the 25th anniversary of the committee, Lyle Grosland and Mrs. Campbell were presented with small gifts as a token of appreciation for their years of service.

During the first years while the committee was busy getting the cemetery in shape by planting trees, hedges, and shrubs, building roadways, cleaning up the graves and so forth, the village purchased a little house and donated it to the committee to use as a cook house and for storage. It was also for sheltering men working in the winter. Coffee still had to be prepared in town and taken out on cemetery day during these years.

As there were no funds to begin with, tag days were held during the spring, but since, memorials and donations have come in the cemetery has become self supporting. In 1950 a stove was purchased and since then coffee has been made and food kept hot in our little shack. Tables and benches were made by the men and stored in the house, but all these, including the copper water tank on the stove, were stolen, so now all equipment must be stored elsewhere. Vandalism has gone on in our cemetery during the years, which is sad indeed as that is a sacred spot to all of us.

Through the years a great deal of work has been accomplished. Cemetery Day is held each June when a crowd turns out to beautify the grounds. In 1950 the O.O.R.P. erected the wrought iron gates. The stone pillars were built by Joe Hooper, but as years went by cars and busses became larger, and the snowplow had to get in so the gates were removed, but the top, raised higher and widened is still there. The side gates are still there as well.

At a meeting in 1955 it was decided to get iron crosses with name plates put on to mark all unmarked graves. A great deal of work went into this project, but at present one doesn't know if the crosses are on the right graves as some persons have seen fit to just change them around. The grass is kept mowed in the summer.

We all appreciate the work done by these faithful people through the years to keep our sacred spot as beautiful as possible.

Holden Post Office

The Vermillion Valley Post Office was established in February 1904 by Wm. Campbell in his farm home (Sec. 20-49-16) and it remained there until 1907 when he resigned. At that time the mail was brought by horseback courier from Wetaskiwin by A. H. Sherwin who made two trips a week, a distance of sixty miles, from 1906 to March 1910 for approximately seven cents a mile.

A name change to Holden Post Office took place in 1907 when the post office was moved to the village with Norman Smith acting as postmaster until 1909. After Norman Smith's resignation, Wm. Campbell acted again until W. E. Hayes took over. He remained until Dr. S. J. Farrell became postmaster and held the



Present Post Office.

position until his death in 1935. He was followed by Raymond Stewart who acted until his retirement in 1951. Eugene Bilyk was postmaster from 1951 to 1968 when he was transferred to Westlock. Eugene's wife, Olga, took over for a month until Ronald Hanrahan arrived. He remained until 1973 when he was transferred to Bentley. G. J. Schissler was here from 1973 to 1975 when he resigned and was replaced by Harriet Sen (Giebelhaus) until 1980 when our present postmaster, Mary Semotiuk, took over.

According to Federal Post Office Archives the following mail contracts were issued:

A. H. Sherwin 1906-1910 — 60 to 62 miles; the following — from the railroad station to post office — W. E. Hayes 1910-1913; S. Mumford 1913-1930; Anton Gorrie 1930-1946; W. R. Stewart 1944-1950; E. W. Good 1950-1958. When the government changed the service mail trucks took over the contracts and have been servicing the town ever since.

R.R. #1: J. Christianson 1920-23; C. H. Edmunds 1924-36; Stanley Stepanick 1936-1944; James McLeod 1943-1945; Reinhold Boettcher 1945-1950; Anton Gorrie 1949-1952; Robert Sorgen 1951-1953; J. H. Alexander 1953-1969; Ralph Mason 1967-1969; John Semotiuk 1969 — still active. Geo. Taylor hauled the mail from approximately 1926-36 but was not listed.

R.R. #2: Alex Kryszka 1919-27; Nick Marko 1925-36 (This contract was listed as Bruce — Kopernick and discontinued in 1936 to become R.R. #2); Stanley Stepanick 1936-1943; James McLeod 1943-1945; Reinhold Boettcher 1945-1950; J. H. Alexander 1953-1969; Ralph Mason 1967-69; John Semotiuk 1969-still active.

Haight

by Doris Ogrodnick

From "happy hunting grounds" to "thriving metropolis" to "ghost town" is the thumbnail history of

Haight. In truth it was never city or town, nor did it ever exceed the hamlet status it acquired when it was named for the engineer that brought the steel through in 1910. Haight, the siding situated on the C.N.R. branch line between Ryley and Vegreville, was destined to become the nucleus of a prosperous mixed farming area located a few miles east of Beaverhill Lake.

Settlers had followed the buffalo herds and the Indians into the location at the turn of the century to take up the free homestead land offered by the Canadian Government as part and parcel of its scheme to open up the West. Supply points at that time were inconveniently located at Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, and some time later at Mundare and Vegreville. So the services rendered by the railroad at

Haight

(NAME OF OFFICE)

Vegreville, Alta

(ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE)

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT—1-11-21

OFFICE RE-OPENED—

OFFICE CLOSED—Permanently Closed 31-10-1967

CHANGES IN NAME

FORMER NAME

DATE OF CHANGE

NAME OF POSTMASTER	MILITARY STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF VACANCY	CAUSE OF VACANCY
Alio Lestivke		1922-22	22-12-22	30-5-27	Res.
William Nebozenko		1927-49	6-9-27	28-6-49	Death
Mrs Mary Nebozenko			29-6-49	acting	
Mrs Mary Nebozenko		1949-50	12-8-49	10-7-50	Res.
Steve Manowski			22-7-50	acting	
Steve Manowski		1950-52	8-11-50	4-7-52	Forced Resignation (Shortage)
Mrs Agnes Wolinski			27-6-52	Acting	
Mrs Agnes Wolinski		1952-56	10-11-52	17-8-56	Res.
Mrs Nancy Basisty			23-8-56	Acting	
Mrs Nancy Basisty		1956-67	18-12-56	31-10-67	Office Permanently Closed

P. S. 39-15,000-9-1-40

Document naming postmasters of Haight Post Office.

this new siding with its impressive looking station house, was indeed a God-send to the struggling settlers. With the establishment of regular train service, the hamlet took a growth spurt and over its somewhat brief existence it could boast of two grocery stores, a confectionery, a blacksmith shop, a hardware store and three huge grain elevators that served as sentinels over the community for nearly fifty years, before being demolished in the 1970's. In the mid '20's a large hall was erected to serve the social needs. Ironically a school was not provided till 1948 — forty years too late some would say. (See Haight School story.)

It was during the 50's and early 60's that business at Haight reached its peak, the railroad playing a major role. It provided mail, passenger and freight service six times a week. It picked up the loaded



Hamlet of Haight taken from top of U.G.G. elevator, 1940.

grain cars from three busy elevators and took on an enormous cargo of cream and eggs. More than fifty cans of cream at one loading gave the train crew problems in listing the items which had to be com-

pleted before the train was side-tracked at Ryley, a distance of ten miles.

The government's decision to abandon the branch line was the beginning of the end to the busy hamlet. One by one the services dropped off, so at the time of this writing Haight consists of one private family dwelling and a county machine shed.

Evidence of our early heritage exists in the collection of Indian artifacts made by Harry Shyba and



U.G.G. elevator in Haight in a precarious position.

Joe Ogradnick. After a heavy summer rain, arrowheads and scutching stones are washed up and one can be rewarded with such finds if you have the energy and interest to search.

For the record we would like to list the names of some early settlers. The Hill family homestead became the site upon which the hamlet was built. This family moved to Ryley and became business people there. Other pioneers were: Derdak, Ewasiuk, Slywka, Lucas, Kolodychuk and Pidoborozny. Somewhat later came Wispinski, Ogradnick, Baraniuk, Rudy, Shyba, Hrabec, Skorochid, Suchy, Pooke, Budinski, Febroski, Augustinovitch, Petryga and Komarnisky.

Section foremen were: Woywitka, Jefferies, Ungarian, Kozak, Danyluk and Gusta.

Storekeepers were: Black, Lastuka and Nebozenko, Kolodychuk, Tokar, Maniowski, Fobes, Wolinski, Basisty, Kashman (blacksmith) and Kozak (feed mill).

Elevator agents were: Stypa, Sackiw, Slywka, Kolodychuk, Baxter, Truman, Kropelnicki, Ogradnick, Shapka, Eluik, Korble, Krezanoski, P. Kozak, J. Kozack, Geibelhaus, Kavich and Farus.

Postmasters were: N. A. Kondruk (1921-1922),

Alix Lastiwke (1922-27), William Nebozenko (1927-1949), Mrs. Mary Nebozenko (1949-1950), Steve Manowski (1950-1952), Agnes Wolinski (1952-1956) and Nancy Basisty (1956-1967). The post office was permanently closed in 1967.

Koperville Post Office (Kopernick) by M. Kryska

On December 1, 1907 a post office which was officially established in the Kopernick area, was named Koperville and was part of the electoral district of Strathcona. On January 1, 1911, the name of the post office was changed to Kopernick. The postal system consisted of a postmaster and courier. The postmaster sorted and stamped the mail to be forwarded, and sorted the incoming mail. The courier was a contracted service, apart from postmaster and was an option normally exercised by the postmaster. The courier would convey the mail from one post office to another.

Mail for the Kopernick district was delivered to the Quarrel post office and store operated by J. Brown and located approximately ten miles north of Daysland. In 1919, the delivery point was changed to Bruce. The postmaster for the Kopernick area would, on a weekly basis, go to Quarrel and later to Bruce and bring the mail to his home. The mail arrived on Saturday afternoon and the settlers or their children would arrive on the following days to pick it up, exchange news of the past week, and to leave letters and parcels for mailing. A horse and buggy in the summer, and a cutter in the winter, was used for the weekly trip which not only involved picking up the mail but occasionally to bring home basic food requirements.

The first postmaster in Kopernick was Peter Miciak. The post office was located in his log home on the SW¼ 20-47-15. He was followed by Alex Kryszka (Kryska) in 1915 and J. Kobylynk served as courier between 1915-1919, and Alex Kryszka as postmaster and courier until 1925, when Nick Marko became postmaster with the post office located in their homes on the SE and NE¼ 20-47-15 respectively. The Kopernick post office was closed on June 2, 1936 and was replaced by RR #2 from Holden.

Poe Station

It and others along the line, were built around 1910 when the Grand Trunk Railway went through. It never had a station agent but served for years as the home of the section foreman for this area. As such, Nelsons lived there, also Elmer Anderson. I believe the last family to live there was named Klass.

Later, when no one lived there, mail was dropped

off and picked up “on the fly” by means of a steel pole with a hook on it. This meant the postmaster had to be on time for the pick-up, which led occasionally to some hilarious but potentially dangerous situations. Postmaster Jimmy Bracegirdle hastening east to the station, and elevator agent Johnny Jack going west to the store and post office, couldn’t see each other coming because of the bush and tried to go through the same narrow gate, at the same time. Fortunately, it only resulted in crumpled fenders and ruffled feelings!



Poe Station.

If you wished to board the local train in winter, some family member lit a fire in the pot bellied stove to keep you from perishing while you waited. Then when you heard it coming, you stood in the middle of the track and waved your arms (could be interesting in a heavy snow storm!). By the time the engineer saw you in the head light, tooted acknowledgement and brought the steam monster to a halt, you had a good hike through often waist-deep snow to reach the last car, where the conductor would be waiting for you. But it was a safe and sure way to travel. Now, the diesel “speedsters” do not deign to stop at Poe, or for that matter, at other places along the line!

Poe Store and Post Office by Stella Sorensen

Due to posters in Ontario advertising cheap lots at Poe, Alberta, Kenneth and Clayton McLennan together with their sister Mrs. Bradley and her three children Will, Vera and Allan, decided to come west.

Mrs. Bradley had the store built north of the tracks and west of where the present hamlet of Poe is. On February 2, 1912, the Poe Post Office was opened there, with Clayton McLennan as postmaster. The next year Mrs. Bradley became postmistress and remained such until she sold the store to George Kerr in the summer of 1921. (Both of them boarded the teachers.) He was postmaster until Ole Kirkelund took over the store in 1927.



Poe Store with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Kail — owners 1946-49.

In 1928 the store was again sold, this time to James Bracegirdle who also became the postmaster until he sold to Frank Kolodychuk in 1934. Kolodychuks stayed only one year.

Business was poor in the Dirty Thirties. The big two storey frame building was well nigh impossible to heat, so the store closed down.

Martin Gienger, a W.W. I veteran (as was J. Bracegirdle) was immediately appointed acting postmaster in July, 1935. A year later, 1936, Wm. Thomson moved a couple of granaries, from his farm south of Poe School, as a basis for a residence, as he had been appointed the new postmaster. The post office remained here until he resigned in August 1942.

In the meantime, Herb Forgan, who farmed about a mile west of Poe on Highway 14, had bought the old store building, dismantled it and rebuilt it on its present site south of the highway. His son Harry and wife Ann ran the store for a time.

Charlie Kail bought it. The post office was put back in the store with his wife Esther as postmistress taking over from Wm. Thomson in 1942 and continuing until they sold the store to Roloffs in 1951. Kails boarded the teachers too.

Mrs. Helen Roloff operated store and post office until December 1955, when August Auch purchased it. The Auchs, first August for two years, and then Arthur for seven years carried on in the store and post office.

The Poe post office was permanently closed Feb. 15, 1964, having been in operation for 52 years.

The store continued on with various owners. Harry Komarnisky bought from Auchs and when he died his wife Tillie carried on for a time. A lady bought from her, stayed briefly, and sold to a Mr. Wiebe from southern Alberta. Present owner is Mrs. Tiedemann.

Scona Post Office

by Nick Laskoski

In the early 1900, pioneers got their mail from the Scona Post Office, which was in the Andrew Nelson's house situated on the N.W. 12-48-16, or seven miles south and one mile east of the present village of Holden. It was operated by Mrs. Anna Nelson and the mail came from Wetaskiwin to the Earling district and then on to Scona. Since about half of the settlers in the district were Ukrainians, Mrs. Nelson soon learned to speak their language, although she was a Swede herself.

We had the pleasure of visiting her in November 1982 at Lloydminster lodge, where she resides. She spoke Ukrainian to us and played her mouth organ and sang Ukrainian songs. Although she is in a wheelchair, she still enjoys good health. The guitar stood by her bed, but she apologized that her fingers sometimes get stiff therefore she couldn't play it for us. We wish you many more years of good health Anna.



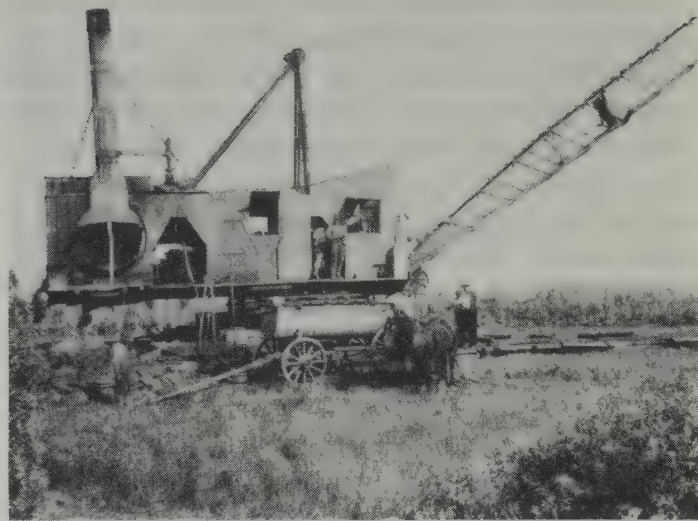
Home of the first Scona Post Office — Andrew Nelson's house.

Holden Drainage District No. 1

by Nick Laskoski and Stuart MacGregor

In 1917 James Courtney, acting as secretary for the petitioners of Holden Drainage District No. 1, submitted a petition on behalf of 165 land owners to the the Minister of Public Works. The petition requested formation of a drainage district which would drain sloughs and low lands within the natural waterway of the Vermilion River Basin. J. P. Brisbin, Justice of the Peace in the Village of Holden, declared the petition.

In 1917 a meeting was held in Palmer School with Thomas Bratrud acting as chairman. A motion was passed unanimously that following the report by the provincial engineer, Mr. McDonald, the drainage project be proceeded with. P. M. Fosse was elected at



Steam drag-line working on Holden Drainage #1 in 1918 and 1919.

this meeting as the first secretary-treasurer of the district.

Another meeting was held in the Palmer School when Hon. J. P. Smith, Minister of Public Works, addressed the meeting along with Mr. McDonald. At this meeting Sigurd Burnstad was appointed as the surveyor for the project.

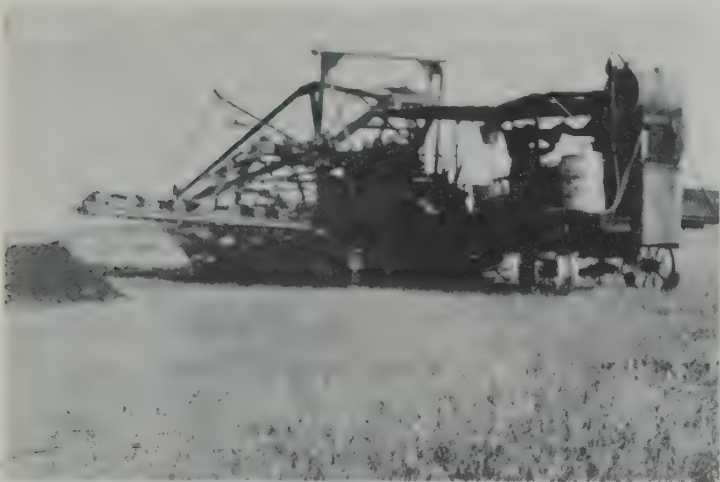
L. C. Charlesworth, Deputy Minister of Public Works, notified each petitioner regarding their estimated benefits and road allowance benefits, along with the estimated cost of the project which was \$101,715.00



Dragline at work on Holden Drainage Ditch about 1919.

Tenders were called for the construction of the drainage scheme in 1918 by the Deputy Minister and the tender of Northern Construction Company was accepted for \$125,945.00.

Again notices were mailed to each land owner to notify them of the increased costs and to allow them to appeal their assessments or withdraw their name from the petition. An appeal court was held in Holden in February of 1918 when appeals were heard before the District Court Judge and adjustments made. The district was constituted as a Drainage District in April, 1918. Holden Drainage District No. 1 was the first such undertaking in the province and also is still the largest drained area which benefits the owners.



Peter Narbeske was foreman on this outfit when the drainage ditch was made in about 1919.

The first three trustees were elected by acclamation in 1921; they were Frank Weir, Peter Sorensen and Hans Huseby.

With the construction finalized in 1921 the total cost including bridges and culverts, came to \$190,000.00. The Provincial Government assumed \$70,000.00 by way of a grant to the district. A debenture for the balance of \$120,000.00 was obtained from New York brokers, guaranteed by the Provincial Government. This debenture was paid in full in 1950.

During the depression years of the 1930's, the drainage tax presented a burden to many farmers with some losing their homesteads as a result.

After the repayment of this debt, the drainage board has utilized the tax funds to reconstruct the main ditches and laterals as required. Some additional lands have been taken into the district over the years adding approximately 400 acres of reclaimed land to the original 12,538 acres.

Benefits also accrued to the municipalities in that they were able to build roads where they couldn't before and considerably reduce costs in places they could have built. This benefit is on going for both the



Horsepower was used for digging lateral ditches.

counties and the land owners and will continue into the future as costs and land values escalate.

Reconstruction of the main channel was undertaken in 1971-72 with the Berkes Branch reconstructed in 1981-82. The Department of the Environment provides grants for reconstruction works on a matching basis with tax funds.

Of all the various trustees on the board over the years, Hans Huseby served for 50 years, being honored with a plaque in 1971. Nick Laskoski has served for 34 years. The present board is comprised of Nick Laskoski, chairman; Lawrence Hovland and Stuart MacGregor as trustees and Bonnie Hellekson as secretary-treasurer.



Main Street — Holden, about 1910.



Main Street — Holden in 1943.



First load unloaded at new seed cleaning plant, Algot and Don Hultholm in fall of 1959.



Coffee time after official opening of Seed Cleaning Plant, 1959.

Sports

Holden Sports — “Looking Back”

by Earl Hardy

As I read through the minutes of the sports days in Holden from 1932 to 1941, several names of citizens who ran the “show” seem to appear over and over. Do you remember these people? A. T. Stewart, T. E. White, W. Boyd, T. A. Liden, D. Allan, R. Newall, F. Koetke, S. Edworthy, A. Black, and G. Black. By 1933 we find J. Good, S. Francis, Lars Ritland, G. Shieman, W. J. Fleming, J. A. Richardson, J. Savage, R. Emond, C. Tiedeman, W. R. Stewart, S. J. Farrell, J. Bracegirdle, E. Olsen, A. Heffel, A. K. James, S. Komarnisky, S. T. Halton, W. Hopkins, M. L. Selkirk, J. Alexander, M. Downey, J. H. McLean, R. Shepherd, F. Prozny, M. Laskosky, N. L. Campbell, Jack Clark, L. Bell, J. Gordeau, M. Sharun and H. Michlich all adding their various abilities to this once a year Holden get-together.

Preparation meetings after meetings were held, and finally the big day arrived with a director for every event.

Would you believe it --- to get into the grounds the adult fee was 25 cents, children 10 cents and cars 15 cents?

By 1937 inflation had set in — adults and cars were now 25 cents and children 15 cents.

The sports events seemed to follow the same pattern each year — baseball, horseshoe, horse

races, crown and anchor for the gamblers and foot races for the younger set.

In 1932, 666 people attended the sports events. Not bad for a small village.

The team who won the baseball tournament went home with \$35.00 and the second prize was \$15.00.

It was interesting to note that making sure that the gate was properly supervised was a fairly high priority. Why not? This was the source of much of the prize money. Whether they should allow visiting ball teams a free pass to the grounds created many good



Inga Chetney and George Armstrong in Holden Sports Day parade in late 50's with George's 1926 Ford.



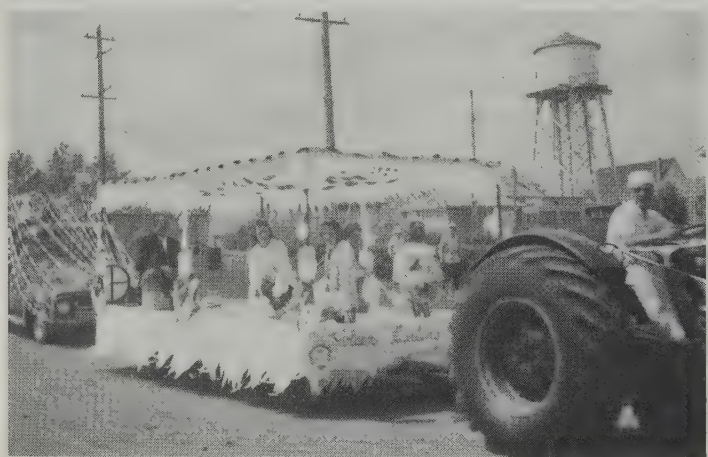
Holden Sports Day in the late '30's. Horse riders — left to right — Ross Christianson and Anne Robertson.

arguments as we read between the lines of their minutes.

Barring rain, dust and floods, the show went on — free ice cream for the youngsters, free coffee from eleven in the morning to one-thirty in the afternoon if you brought your own lunch. To “trip the light fantastic” at the end of the day you could dance to a good orchestra from Ryley for 25¢.



First pit barbecue held on Holden Sports Day. Walter Grosland, Mike Zaharchuk, Nestor and John Semotiuk standing at table.



Curling Club float with Hec Gervais on float — 1961.



Holden Majorettes in Holden parade — 1960.



The Last Ride

May your horse never stumble
Your cinch never bust
Nor the barrel of your pistol
Clog up with rust.

Empty the saddle He rode so well,
Oh — how my lips grow numb
A pony waits at the pasture gate
For a master who doesn't come.

Stirrup to stirrup we canter
On down memory lane
Recalling the scenes of yesterday
That can never come again.

John has taken his last long ride
He rests in a quiet place
Gone is his hearty handshake
And the happy smile on his face.

Something is missing at the stampede ground
Because friend John is not there
Yet we miss him most in the big parade
It just don't seem quite fair.

Where a helping hand was needed
That's where John would be
He left us all that price-less gift
A beautiful memory.

Erle Davis

A tribute to John Tkaczyk, who led the Holden Sports Day parade for many years.

Holden Elks Frontier Days

There were stampedes in Holden as early as 1918. After a number of years when no such activities were carried on, the Holden Elks decided to put on a one-day stampede in 1949 and they named it the Holden



SECOND ANNUAL FRONTIER DAY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Holden B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 296

Fully C.P.A. Approved Which Assures the Spectators of Seeing the Top Riders and Ropers of Canada

HOLDEN, ALTA.

\$715.00 Total Prize Money All Entry Fees Added

DANCE

Community Hall 10:30 p.m. Sharp
LLOYD BELL and his SWING BAND

The Management Is Not Responsible for Accidents of Any Kind to Anyone

Tumbling Act During Afternoon Performance



Events consist of:

Saddle Bronc Riding
Bareback Bronc Riding
Calf Roping
Steer Decorating
Steer Riding
Wild Horse Race
Wild Cow Milking
Chuck Wagon Race
Amateur Bronc Riding
Cowboys' Stake Race



Horse Races

	First	Second	Third	Entry Fee
Free For All	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$2.00
Farmers Race	20.00	12.00	7.00	2.00
Pony Race	15.00	10.00	5.00	2.00
Chariot Race	20.00	12.00	7.00	2.00
Pony Express	20.00	12.00	7.00	2.00

WED. JUNE 11, 1947

Program Starts Promptly at 12:30 Noon

Evening Performance Starts at 7:30 Sharp

See the Thrilling Chuck Wagon Race

Prize Money: \$75; \$50; \$25

Come to the BIGGEST LITTLE SHOW in the North

"Where Good Riders and Bad Horses Meet"

Refreshment Booths, Soft Drinks, Hot Dog Stands on the Grounds

Music and Announcements by Public Address System

ADMISSION: 75c

Cars 25c

Children under 12 Free

LLOYD BELL, Chairman Frontier Day Committee

CLARENCE NELSON, Arena Director

Elks Frontier Days. This was later changed to a two-day affair.

Corrals were built, an arena was built — at one time as many as fifty members were involved in the work. However, many non-Elks contributed their time and talents to make this a first-rate show.

The local business community sponsored radio advertisements preceding the stampede and up to the time the show began.

The headline in the Holden Herald of June 1950 illustrates the character of the stampede:

HOLDEN ELKS PRESENT BEST STAMPEDE IN TOWN'S HISTORY

It was also printed that 7000 people paid admission to see the stampede, while 1200 cars were parked on and around the grounds.

The Public were treated to the following events:

1. Parade
2. Gayland shows and midway
3. Saddle bronc riding
4. Wild steer decorating
5. Bareback riding
6. Steer riding
7. Chuck wagon races
8. Pony races
9. Daysland brass band
10. Softball games

The ladies of the Royal Purple had their hands full providing pop, ice-cream, pie and hot-dogs for a hot, hungry and thirsty crowd.

Lloyd Bell was the tireless manager and much of the success of the stampede was due to his efforts. Others that are to be remembered are Cliff Foran as secretary and Jack Keith as racetrack manager. Clarence Nelson planned the corrals and the arena.

Many Elks were involved in preparing for the numerous events — for years of hard work, and we thank them.

Time and circumstance change all things. The stampede came to an end. Operating costs made it impossible to carry on. The corrals and the arena were sold and torn down, and biggest show in this part of Alberta became Holden Sports Day.

Holden Sports

(Information obtained from Holden Herald, August 2, 1955)

All sports were very popular with the pioneers of Holden and District.

Softball

When softball became popular in the province, Holden was not left out. At one time there was an eight team league and games were played every night at the sports grounds. The teams were made up of the



Holden Fastball Team, and supporters, 1945. Back Row: Nestor Plishka, John Story, Albert Dorin, Harry Shyba, ?, Ernie Good, Fred Skakum, Marshall Kuzyk, Les Hughes, Clare Liden, ?. Front Row: Harry Ogrodnick, Don Allan, Peter Nebo, Jack Good, Walter Oslund, Nick Symbaluk.



Holden Ball Team, 1910. Back Row: ?, Arch Appleby, Geo. McVittie. Centre Row: ?, ?, Jack Appleby. Front Row: Frank Mohs, ?, Myron Appleby.



Talbot Tiny Tot Softball Team. Back Row: Agnes Grasdahl, Elsie Kennedy, Mary White, Annie Nowodworski, Emma Dorin, Pearl Moore. Seated: Helen Romanisson, Joan Secombe, Norah Kennedy, Helen Logan, Esther Tangen, Hildur Erickson, Nellie Romanisson.

west side of main street, the east side, the clerks, the unemployed, the old timers, one team from the country and the balance was made up of the older students of Holden School.

Later a fastball club was organized and played in the Alberta Playoffs.

Basketball

Holden, through the efforts of Holden Athletic Club and Manager George Black, brought to this town one of the best teams in the district. Basketball was one of the short lived sports in Holden.



Ladies basketball team 1922. Standing: A. P. Mair, B. Dorin, G. Black (coach), E. J. Sorgen, B. Andrews. Seated: A. Olson, E. Daily, G. R. Mumford (Captain), M. Maruszczka.

Golf

We have had two golf courses in Holden. The first was on the section just on the edge of town where Stanley Komarnisky's farm is now. This course was very popular until two of the players decided to burn the grass on the fairway a little. The fire got away from them and the owner lost his pasture and a number of stacks of feed. The result was that the golfers were without a place to play. Later a number of golfers formed a new club and course on what is now E. W. Good's land just east of town by the highway. This was just a small golf course and shortage of members caused this club to end.

Curling

The curling club has been fairly active through the years. The first rink was built facing west.

In 1938 the old rink was in very bad shape so it was replaced by a new rink. The money was borrowed from the bank and the cost of the work was borne by the members of the club. The entire rink was painted one afternoon. The ladies' club was on hand to supply coffee and lunch.



Back Row: unknown, Hjalmer Myrmo, Harry Johnson, Henry Huseby. Front Row: George Armstrong, Clint Armstrong, Ron Robinson and Albert Schaur.



Early Holden curlers: Steve Komarnisky, Bob Newall, Bob Emond and Sam Edworthy.



District Winners of Massey Ferguson Curling Playdowns curled in Provincial Finals in 1964: Joe Komarniski (coach), Harry Shyba (skip), Norman Koetke (third), Ed Faryna (second), Eugene Meadahl (lead).

Stampedes

Holden had stampedes as early as 1918. They were not held every year, but every once in a while. The Holden Elks held a number of them in the early fifties.



Riders practice for stampede in 1936: Standing on left — unknown, hugging the pole, Otto Wenstob, Don Connolly, ?, Lawrence Ritland, Sigfrid Nohr, Harry Tkaczyk, Charlie Sizer (coach), Ted Holden, John Kabesh, John Tkaczyk, Mike and Peter Zeminek.



Roman races at Holden Stampede in 1937. Fred Dorin, John Kennedy, Ted Holden, Harry Tkaczyk.

Football

In the early history of Holden there was a football team that could match anything that came this way. Holden always seemed to be on top at the first of July sports. Football was especially popular at the time the railway was being built.

Hunting

Hunting was always a good sport in and around Holden.



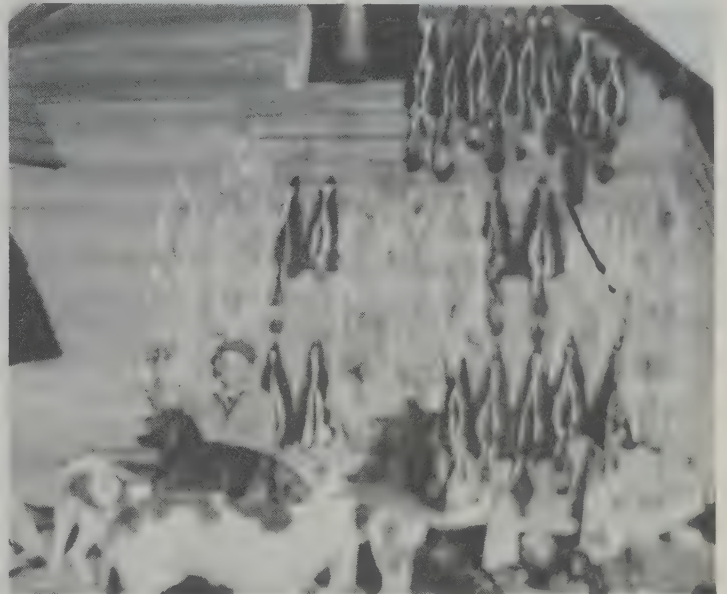
Competitors at Holden Stampede in 1937: L. Holden, J. Kennedy, P. Zeminak, T. Holden, J. Tkaczyk, ?, J. Kabesh, Lars Ritland, H. Tkaczyk, ?, ?, and A. Coates.



1920 Holden Football Team. Standing: C. A. Mumford, D. McAfee, W. H. MacLean, G. E. McVittie, C. Pinder, J. E. Rusby. Sitting: G. H. Taylor, G. Brown (Billy Johnson), H. Chapman, A. K. James and R. Emond.



Ross, Wilfred Christianson, Peter Albrecht, James and Donald Christianson, rabbit hunt.



Harry Tkaczyk's catch of skunks, coyotes and weasels in 1938.



Ed and Anna Christianson, Oscar and Olga Burnstad and Lily Christianson going on a coyote hunt.



Coyote hunting in 1957. J. Kercher, dog owner, Richard Kiist, helper. Hides were worthless, but ears were worth \$2.00 a pair. About 107 coyotes caught that year.

Tennis

The first tennis court was built behind the first Royal Bank. Later six courts were built down at the sports grounds. The players thinned out and the grounds were allowed to grow up to weeds. Years later four more courts were mde east of the Community Hall. These were very good courts topped with cinders and surrounded by a high wire fence. The tennis bug died again and there has been no further effort made since to bring back this sport.

Badminton

This inside game became very popular in the early 30's. The hall was used two evenings a week but by the '40's this too, had died out.

Hockey

Hockey is one game that has remained popular for a long time. Pictures here show a hockey team that was one of the best in 1910. From then on until the outbreak of WW II, Holden has had a hockey team of some sort. Some were winners some were not, but on the average Holden could ice the best team on Highway 14 whether it be junior or senior. Holden won the Dawson Cup in 1926.



L. to R.: Abie Black, Abner Logan, (?), Elmer Logan, Ted Bartsch, George McClintock, (?), (?), Bill Hopkins, (?), Joe Petasky.



L. to R.: Jim Foran, Lawrence Story, Walter Dorin, Abie Black, Nick Grycan, Clare Liden, Hal Haverstock, Marcel Gourdeau, Ernie Good, Romeo Gourdeau.

In the early 30's Holden seniors played in the Gas Line League. At that time the fans were behind the club. Gate receipts of \$200 at the open air rink were not uncommon. On hockey night fans came for miles with team and sleigh to see the games. Holden, Viking, Tofield, Irma and later Wainwright were in the Gas Line League. Holden managed to win their share of the championships. At that time Holden also had a junior team known as the Holden Aces. They also took their share of the top money. There were times when the hōckey clubs would play hockey tournaments all over the country. In the earlier days when they had to travel with horses and sleighs they would arrive half frozen, but played anyway.



Hockey practise on the open rink.



Back: Albert Johnson, Dave McAfee, ?, Frank Mohs, George Black, Frank Wolfe. Kneeling: Bob Emond, Barney Hurum, ?, ?.



Suddie Mumford, (?), Harold Humby, George McVittie, Cecil Mumford, Bob Emond, (?).

HOLDEN DEFENDS THE DAWSON CUP

Tofield Hockey Squad
Soundly Beaten by
Score of 6-2.

HOLDEN, Feb. 22.—The Tofield hockey team made another bid for the Dawson cup, Monday evening, but the local team refused to let it go, winning by 6-2.

During the first inning the Holden boys kept the play around their opponents' goal and found the net twice. The next period was like the first, resulting in two scores more for the home team.

In the last period, the Holdenites relaxed their aggressiveness and were caught looting, so that the visitors in quick order made two scores. The game tightened up again and Holden netted two, to make the score 6-2.

The Tofield team are good sports and no mean players. The local team could not afford to give them any favors. Howard Humphrey was the referee.

Holden—Wallace, Hurum, M. MacPherson, Block, Allan, C. MacPherson, Farrell, Brown, Mohs.

Tofield—Hannan, Lea, Glover, Smith, Worton brothers and Cadger.

Holden defends Dawson Cup.



L. to R.: Mike Grycan, Paul Grycan, Lawrence Story, Oswald Olsen, Nick Grycan, Art James, Gordon Newell, Bryan Shie-man, Eddie Shanley, Clare Liden.



Holden Hockey Team — 1925. Back Row: A. K. James, L. Grommers, J. A. Third, D. McAfee, C. Third, F. Mohs, R. Emond. Front Row: R. Harris, A. Aldridge, R. C. Hugh, B. C. Hurum, G. Black.



1920
Back Row: Peter Harmider (coach), Jim Sanderson, Ray Shanley, Doug Johnson, Norman Koetke, Ralph Gorrie, Oran Johnson. Front Row: Nick Symbaluk, Oliver Owens, Ron Komarnisky, Calvin Story, Melvin Gaudet.



Baseball

Baseball always held a top position in the sports in and around Holden. The game was played early in the history of the village. The Holden and District team always took part in sports days at various towns and picnics and in most cases won a good share of the prizes. Junior ball was played in recent years and the boys had one of the best teams in Northern Alberta.

Friendly rivalry in the Martin's district. The German baseball team against the Norwegian team. Bottom picture. Back Row: Big John H. Giebelhaus, George Miller, George Albrecht, Adam Albrecht, John J. Giebelhaus, George Bloom. Front Row: John Badge, John Miller, John Walker, John C. Giebelhaus, George J. Giebelhaus. Top picture. Norwegian players. Back Row: Herman Nordstrom, Henry Field, Martin Morland and John Jacobson. Front Row: Lester Nordstrom, Anton Morland, E. C. Murray and Carl Morland.



Holden Baseball — 1915. Back Row: Mr. Mitchell, Melvin Myers, Bill Schnare, Charlie Brisbin, Bill Jacobs, Dick Dooley. Front Row: Bob Emond, Angus, Ross, Frank Mohs, Cecil Mumford. Mascot: Lawrence Mohs.

Clubs and Organizations

Air Cadets



Holden Air Cadet Squadron, 1943. Back Row: #3 R. Pederson, #6 R. Hoveland. The rest unknown. Front Row: E. Kozdrowski, P. Shehinski, (?), B. Shieman, Flying Officer W. Brushett, Flying Officer D. Allan, A. Dorin, C. Liden, F. Grube.



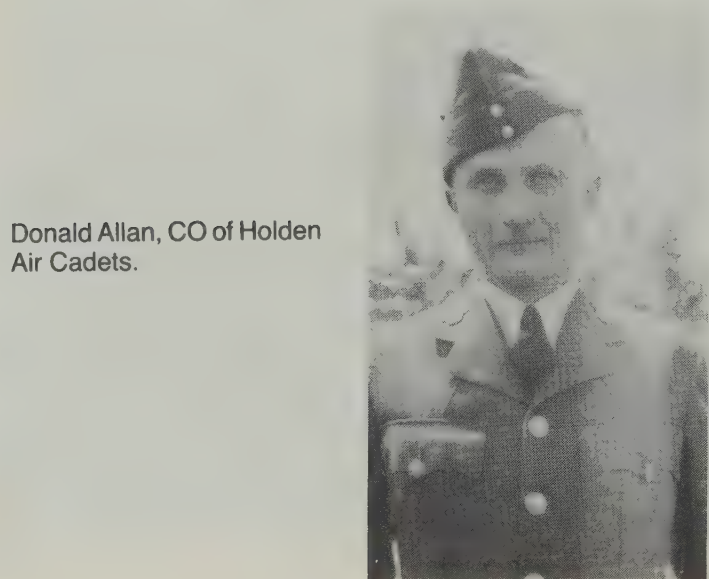
Holden Air Cadets Squadron under command of D. H. Allan.



Holden Air Cadet Squadron at B. and G. School, Lethbridge, 1944. LAC's: A. Squair, R. Hoveland, Sgt. C. Liden, Cpl. P. Shehinski, Cpl. F. Grube, Cpl. A. Shanley. Front Row: Cpl. E. Kozdrowski, (?), LAC. L. Shanley.



Holden Cadets. Albin Woicichoski, E. Shanley, E. Kozdroski, F. Grube, Raymond Fleming, Brian Shieman, ?, Victor Laskosky.



Donald Allan, CO of Holden Air Cadets.



Holden Air Cadet Squadron. Back Row: Raymond Fleming, Albert Dorin, (?), Victor Laskosky, Paul Shehinski. Front Row: Joe Komarnisky, Albin Woicichoski, Albin Shanley, Clare Liden, Eddie Kozdrowski.

Boy Scouts & Cubs



Cubs. Back Row: John Semotiuk, Lorna Laustsen, commissioner, (unknown), Hank Tiedemann. Back: Kenny Stecyk, Jim Budd, Greg Ogradnick, Richard Bilyk, behind Richard Grant Bilyk, Douglas Macdonell, Robert Strilchuk, Gary Semotiuk, ? McIntstry, Craig Semotiuk, Richard Calo. Seated: Redge Kaluzny, Peter Calo, Robert Tiedemann, Doug. Appleby, Gerald Sroka, Gregory Bilyk — 1964.



Scout troop camping at Miquelon Lake in 1924.



Scout Leaders Herb Hunter and Art Boettcher with scouts Jim Stanton, Earl Giebelhaus, Gordon Thorsell and Don Allan.



Boy Scout Troop, 1962. Steven Hessels (leader), Larry Strilchuk, Larry Bilyk, John Semotiuk (leader), Brian Strilchuk, Orest Lozinski, District Commissioner (name unknown). Standing in front: Marvin Semotiuk, Robert Stecyk, Robert Pederson, David Tiedemann, Gerald Shihinski, Jerry Lozinski, Andrew Calo, Terry Ogradnick, Russel Bohush (leader).

Brownies & Guides



Wynn Beveridge and Harriet Hviid with Brownie group. Back Row: Diane Erickson, ? Chupka, Sylvia Komarnisky. Middle Row: Carolyn Pelsey, Betty Michlich, Donna Tiedemann, Gail Allan, Sharon Hunter. Front Row: Maxine Hviid, Marilyn Manchur, Ardith and Arlene Armstrong.



Girl Guides — 1949. Standing: Amelia Mielimaka, Florence Story, Julia Makarowski, Elaine Keith, Mrs. Gordey (leader). Seated: Joanne Kitt, Lila Skakum, Joan Armstrong, Eugenie Bilyk.



1st Holden Brownie Pack at Sports Day parade — 1963.



Brownies, Gail Allan and Sharon Hunter selling Girl Guide Cookies.



Guides, Marilyn Manchur, Ardena Armstrong and Maxine Hviid cleaning up after a camp weekend.

The Holden Curling Club and the Holden Complex

by Bruce Budd

There are diverging accounts of when the Holden Curling Club was actually organized some time between 1918-1924. That it had a prime booster in the person of Billy Carter, is apparent. Even Olsen was the construction foreman with the ardent support of Bob Emond, Dad Harris, Jim Third, Clayton Third, George Black, Sam Edworthy, McAfee brothers and John Hanlan. Taale Thompson was the caretaker at forty dollars a season.

There is some dispute over whether it was one or two sheets but it was lit by gas lights and was situated about where the present hockey arena is.



Holden Complex, opened in 1975.

In 1938 the curling club decided to build a new rink of two sheets on main street, north of fifty first avenue. Again Even Olsen was the construction supervisor with much volunteer help including his growing sons. The complete material cost was \$1,-200.00 with much support from Dr. Farrel, Alex Brown, Tom White, T. A. Liden, Joe Alexander, Kenny James, Olaf Chetney, Steve Komarnisky, Bob Newell, Dick Forest, Harold Story, Abe Black, Tony Komarnisky, Jack Keith, George Shieman, Ben Evenson and Norman Armstrong, to mention but a few. In 1954 a car bingo was organized to raise money to extend the rink to three sheets. It was successful with \$5,000.00 being raised, and Mr. William Brushett the school principal, was the lucky winner of a Buick car. Giebelhaus Construction took on the job and it was completed in 1957.

In the winter of 1962 it became apparent that we had to install an artificial ice plant in our rink if we were going to maintain our competitive edge in local small town curling. A newcomer on the scene, Matt Leake, an insurance agent, jumped into the midst and in the fall of 1963 it was accomplished with local financial aid in the form of shares and volunteer labor. The next big move was in 1972 when the Holden Agricultural Society was incorporated, with Allan Zwierschke as the first president and Marion Tkaczyk as secretary-treasurer. There were two vice-presidents and ten board members. During the early part of 1973 a drive for funds began, and when it ended the Holden community had rallied behind the project to the amount of \$60,000. This board was made up almost entirely of men and women of the Holden Curling Club.

Cambrian Engineering was given a contract for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars to build the main structure. The late Bob Mackay was the chairman of the building committee during the construction period, and did much to organize the volunteer labor as well as the hiring of the tradespeople. When that was completed the inside work started and John Laskosky was hired to make sure everything was done according to the blueprints.

Again someone came forward who knew something about cement blocks and concrete in the person

of John Rurka. A lot of assistance came from Ernie and Norman Koetke and many, many other farmers. The ladies also did their share in painting. The curling club moved their artificial ice plant to the new building at no cost to anyone except a lot of work by the members of whom Harry Shyba was a real spark plug.

In February of 1975 we had a gala affair to commemorate the official opening of this beautiful Complex.

In 1981 and 1982 a refrigeration cooling plant was installed to maintain ice in the skating arena all winter, at a cost a community like Holden could afford.

In the winter of 1974-1975 Joe Komarnisky sponsored the Holden Beavers in the Beaverhill hockey league with John Campbell as coach. He has maintained the team now for eight years. A very considerable effort for one businessman.

We also have the Holden Oldtimers Hockey team sponsored by Reinold Grinde of Hilltop construction. The Holden Goodtimers are a force to be reckoned with in local hockey circles. We also have the Gas Camp Bushwhackers who contribute mightily to the competitive aspect and good sportsmanship of this entire community. Minor hockey and figure skating are very well organized under the efforts of Len Langner, Ken Sharpe and the instruction of Shirley Voltner and daughters of Viking.

This Complex is now a real beehive of activities the year round. The mezzanine room completely finished and furnished by the Holden Elks Club is used by 4-H and many other organizations.

It is a credit to the many who have served on the agricultural society board over the years and the community at large that it is entirely paid for.

Holden 4-H Beef Club

The Holden 4-H Beef Club was organized in the spring of 1947 by District Agriculturist Nick Chomik (1947-1960) of Ryley, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture. The first leader of the club was Mr. John A. Giebelhaus, who held this position for two years. The first club secretary was Gilbert Klammer.

The only record available for that first year was that of a stock judging contest in which the following members' names appeared: Harold Giebelhaus, Dan Eberhardt, Lorraine Giebelhaus, Wilfred Lamont, Wallace Giebelhaus, Martha Giebelhaus, John. D. Giebelhaus, Gilbert Klammer, Earl Giebelhaus and Art Grinde.

In 1949, Algot Hultholm became club leader, a position to which he faithfully dedicated himself for



Patricia Klymochko with her Grand Champion calf and Alfred Klymochko with his Reserve Champion, in 1953.

the next eleven years, a term which ran concurrently with Mr. Chomik's tenure.

In 1961 Mr. Chomik (D.A.) was transferred to Vegreville and his replacement was Stan Powers, who organized the club under the leadership of Charlie Zwierschke. Charlie guided the club activities for the next four years after which he passed the office on to Leo Hladilo who held it for one year (1965). Nick Stuart assumed the leadership in 1966 and held it for the following two years (1966-1968).

In 1968 the leadership passed to Don Hultholm, a position he held for the following ten years. But Don's work in 4-H activities did not stop at the local level. He has held various official positions on the Northeast 4-H Regional Council, the Provincial 4-H Council and the National 4-H Council. His most recent appointment is that of representative to the 4-H Council of Canada for a five year term.

The more recent leaders are as follows: 1978 — Betty Koetke, 1979 — Adelle Story, 1980-82 — Walter Lutz, 1983 — Ben Lutz and Leslie Giebelhaus.

Traditionally 4-H Clubs have maintained interest through numerous activities that culminated in awards for high achievement. Members could obtain points from such activities as calf feeding records, grooming, showmanship and public speaking, to mention only a few.

Over the years the Holden Beef Club has won its fair share of major awards. In 1961 a major award was a trip to Montana won by Allan Zwierschke. Allan has remained active with 4-H Club activities in the Holden area for more than 25 years.

In 1962 a major award, a trip to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto plus a side trip to Ottawa to meet

Prime Minister Diefenbaker was won by Don Hultholm. In 1971, a trip to California was won by Debbie Faryna. In 1974, an exchange trip to New Brunswick was won by Debbie Koetke. In 1975, a major award, a trip to Minnesota was won by Kathy Hurum. Over the many years that Norma Zwierschke belonged to the Holden Beef Club, she always showed a Shorthorn calf at Achievement Day exercises. As a result, in 1962, she received an invitation to go to Toronto as guest of the Shorthorn Association, where she was selected "Shorthorn Lassie" for Alberta, for 1963.

Since space does not permit us to name all the members and their helpful parents and others who gave so generously of their time to make the club function successfully over thirty-six years of its existence, we will list only those whose names appear on the records as assistant leaders or councillors: Jim Howrish, William Micklich, Mike Klymochko, Lyle Grosland, Norman Koetke, Dave Faryna, A. L. Gibson, Harry Johnson, Art Grinde, Calvin Story, Adam Schmidt, Melvin Olson, W. Christiansen, Chris Giebelhaus and Jim Tymchuk.

Achievement Day, usually in June, is always the highlight of the year. It involves grooming and showing the calf and then selling the animal at an auction in the afternoon. The day culminates with a banquet and presentation of awards.

Holden 4-H Dairy Club

The Dairy club was organized in 1949 by the Alberta Dairy Herd Supervisor, R. P. Dixon, D.A. for Beaver, Nick Chomick and interested farmers. Members bought heifer calves from farmers in the Edmonton area. Over the years this club was able to improve the quality of dairy cattle in the Holden area.



Achievement Day parade of Holden 4-H Dairy Club about 1949.

Leadership qualities and the ability to conduct meetings was learned through this club. Every year the top 4-H member of the club had the chance to attend a 4-H provincial gathering at the Vermilion School of Agriculture for one week. Ernest and

Melba Koetke won the provincial judging competition in 1952. In 1955 Betty Hurum and Robert Clark of Didsbury won the provincial judging competition for dairy cattle. With the winning of this award one received an all expense paid trip to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto via C.P. or C.N. rail. The national judging competitions were held there. 4-H leaders in the Holden club were O. H. F. Koetke, Otto Hurum, and Paul Schwanke.



Dairy Club Members: Lawrence and Betty Hurum and Lorna Koetke. Far Left: Nick Chomik, 1949.

Members at one time or another, starting in 1949 were: Angus Keith, Ernest Koetke, Alvin Koetke, Melba Koetke, Shirley MacGregor, Joe Mielimaka, Dawne Keith, Gordon Story, Lorna Koetke, Ronnie Story, Betty Hurum, Elaine Keith, Gladys Lundblad, Grant MacGregor, Florence Story, Lawrence Hurum, Velma Klammer, Evelyn Grinde, Edward Kondrat, Steven Kondrat, Calvin Story, Grace Hurum, Mavis Keith, David Gibson, Charles Gib-



Edward Kondrat, Josie Kondrat, Melba Koetke, Alvin Koetke, Ernest Koetke.

son, Walter Boettcher, Genevieve Hurum, Albert Boettcher, Eleanor Laskoski, Lyle Bratrud, Keith Bratrud, Marie MacGregor, Carol Hurum, Dorothy Schwanke, Ronnie Koetke, Grace Koetke, Lawrence Hrabec, Irma Boettcher and Elmer Boettcher.

With the decline in small farm dairy production, the club ended in the late 1950's.

Junior Grain Club

submitted by Leonard Kowalchuk

In 1931 the Field Crop Branch organized "Junior Crop Improvement Associations" for boys between fourteen and twenty-two years of age. The Alberta Wheat Pool sponsored these associations by supplying each wheat club contestant with five bushels of registered seed at commercial prices. The Western Canadian Flour Mills did likewise for the oat clubs. Later on the United Grain Growers took over the sponsoring of the oat clubs within the province. The Holden Junior Grain Club was formed in 1933 and remained active until 1960. The following are some names of people involved in the club.

1933 — Holden Junior Wheat Club Members: 16

Project: Marquis wheat

Club leader: W. Fleming, Mgr. Royal Bank, Holden.

President: L. Grosland

Vice-president: J. Zwierschke

Secretary: A. Sorenson

Seed supply officer: S. M. Edworthy, Alberta Wheat Pool, Holden.

1934 — Officers the same as in 1933.

Members: 17

Project: Marquis wheat and Victory oats.

1935 — Members: 30

Project: Red Bob wheat.

Club leader: S. J. Francis

President: J. Good

Vice-president: L. Grosland

Secretary: M. Olson

D.A. J. L. Eaglesham, Vegreville.

No record until 1943

Members: 27

Project: Victory oats and Newal barley.

Club leader: L. Hoegt

President: A. Ham

Vice-president: C. E. Kelly

Secretary: R. E. Giebelhaus

D.A. J. L. Kerns, Ryley.

1944 — Members: 24

Project: Thatcher wheat and Victory oats.

Officers: the same as 1943

1945 — no record.

1946 — Holden Crop Club.

Members: 23

Club leader: A. Stanton

President: Harold Giebelhaus

Vice-president: A. Christensen

Secretary: P. A. Komarnisky

D.A. W. A. Moisey, Ryley.

1947 — Members: 20

Project: Montcalm barley

Club leader: George G. Giebelhaus

President: D. Eberhart

Vice-president: D. Giebelhaus
 Secretary: Harold Giebelhaus
 D.A. Nick Chomik, Ryley.
 1948 — Members: 17
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leader: George Giebelhaus
 President: Marvin Giebelhaus
 Vice-president: A. Christensen
 Secretary: Clayton Eberhart
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1949 — Members: 16
 Holden 4-H Grain Club
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leader: O. Hurum
 President: Bill Kelly
 Vice-president: A. Christensen
 Secretary: Melvin Giebelhaus
 D.A. Nick Chomik, Ryley.
 1950 — Members: 15
 Project: Victory oats.
 Club leader: O. Hurum
 President: Lawrence Hurum
 Vice-president: Alvin Koetke
 Secretary: Stanley Howrish
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1951 — Members: 15
 Project: Victory oats
 Club leader: J. Howrish
 President: Milton MacGregor
 Vice-president: Wilbur Michlich
 Secretary: Stanley Howrish
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1952 — Members: 12
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leader: O. Hurum
 President: Rudy Willisko
 Vice-president: Ernest Koetke
 Secretary: Allan Hultholm
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1953 — Members: 13
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leader: Peter Suchy
 President: Leonard Komarnisky
 Vice-president: Lyle Bratrud
 Secretary: Lawrence Suchy
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1954 — no record.
 1955 — Members: 14
 Project: Newal barley
 Club leader: Peter Suchy
 President: Donnie Hultholm
 Secretary: Art Gibson
 Vice-president: Lawrence Suchy
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1956 — Members: 17

Project: Newal and Husky barley
 Club leaders: Peter Suchy and Tony Tymchak
 President: Ernest Howrish
 Vice-president: Jerry Tymchak
 Secretary-treasurer: Leonard J. Kowalchuk
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1957 — Members: 14
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leaders: Peter Suchy, Tony Tymchak and Peter Kowalchuk
 President: Leonard J. Kowalchuk
 Vice-president: Lawrence Suchy
 Secretary: Edwin Stienwand
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1958 — Members: 15
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leaders: Tony Tymchak and Oscar Koetke
 President: Lawrence Suchy
 Vice-president: Stanley Misyk
 Secretary: Adolf Kolodychuk
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1959 — Members: 17
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leaders: Harold Giebelhaus, Steve Suchy and Ted Appleby
 President: Adolf Kolodychuk
 Vice-president: Terry Appleby
 Secretary: Stanley Misyk
 D.A. Nick Chomik
 1960 — Members: 14
 Project: Thatcher wheat
 Club leaders: Harold Giebelhaus and William G. Bowthorpe
 President: Stanley Misyk
 Vice-president: James Snortheim
 Secretary: Douglas Helgeland
 Treasurer: Ann Appleby

Holden Royal Canadian Legion #56 by Peter Hrabec

The Great War Veterans' Association was organized in 1919. In 1921 there were 27 members. The first president was Kenneth Morrison and the first secretary treasurer was Ken Fraser. The Cenotaph was designed and sculptured by Major H. G. Norbury at the cost of approximately \$1200.00. On June 4, 1923 the Cenotaph was unveiled, and dedicated by Bishop Grey, of Edmonton. Joe Good took charge of the ceremonial parade.

The Great War Veterans' Association was transferred to the British Empire Service League on May 28, 1928 and later changed to Royal Canadian Legion.

In 1951 a grant of \$100.00 was given to the newly formed Ladies' Auxiliary to give them a start as they



Cenotaph erected in 1923 to commemorate those killed in action during W. W. I.

had been giving great help to the Legion during poppy sales and on Armistice Day.

In 1957 the West Bruce School was purchased from the Holden School Division for the sum of \$500.00 to be used as a club room for the Legion and the Ladies' Auxialary. It was moved to the new site in Holden by Afseth brothers for the sum of \$71.00.

The life members in the Holden Legion who will always be remembered are: Joe Shanley who passed



Unveiling of the cenotaph.

away in 1974 at the age of 81, George H. Taylor who is still with us, and Joe Alexander, deceased. The membership now stands at 36 with Gordon Komarnisky as president and Peter Hrabec as secretary.

Holden Legion Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Holden Branch of the British Empire Service League was organized in 1951 at the home of Mary James with thirteen ladies present as well as president Les. Hughes, secretary Peter Blake, Mary James and Joyce Fodness of the Legion. The ladies present were to be charter members. They were: president Einid Hughes, 1st vice president Ethel Brekstad, 2nd vice president Doris Story, secretary Margaret Stanton, treasurer Margaret Saboe, Anne Dorin, Bunty Robinson, Hazel



Legion Ladies Auxiliary members — 1983. Back Row: Emily Ogonoski, Helen Stecyk, Ethel Brekstad, Winnie Johnson, Doris Hunchak, Helen Hrabec. Seated: Carol Chomik, Irene Taylor, Clara Sizer.

Armstrong, Winifred Johnson, Mamie Tiedemann, Kate Gorrie, Rita Stewart and Alice Hladilo. Mary James and Joyce Fodness joined also. The membership dues were \$3.00 for 1951. They were \$1.50 for a number of subsequent years. The installation meeting was held at the community hall May 10, 1951 with Mrs. Purcill of Vegreville opening the meeting. Mrs. Gorrie was elected treasurer by acclamation. With provincial Zone Commander of Vermilion, Mrs. Heckbert in the chair, and Joyce Fodness as sergeant at arms, the officers and councillors were duly installed. There were five ladies from Vegreville in attendance.

We started a raffle to be held at each meeting with the winning member bringing an article to the fol-

lowing meeting to be raffled. To start the raffle Ethel brought two dozen eggs. The raffles went for one year.

The ladies' auxiliary started selling poppies in 1951 and have sold poppies or have been in charge of poppy day ever since. We have assisted the legion on Armistice Day November 11. We furnished dishes, silverware, coffee pot and drapes for the hall. We have also paid some of the insurance on the hall.

For some time the auxiliary held their meetings in homes of members and in the Masonic Hall and later in the Legion club room. The Legion bought the West Bruce School in 1957 for \$500.00 and renovated it for a club room. The first meeting that the auxiliary held in the club room was on October 27, 1959.

Our way of making money varied. For a few years we had a travelling basket, raffles and whist drives. One year we had a dance in the Bruce Hall. Now we rely on a bake sale once a year. Two main raffles which were held were two bedspreads crocheted by Leona Ruskenveld and two petit point pictures made by Doris Story.

We have given regularly to the Hospital Fund, Salvation Army and the Legion Bursary Scholarship Fund.

Kathy Stecyk received the scholarship in 1978.

Dynamic Lodge No. 96, A.F. & A.M.

Dispensation was given by the Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. in 1917, to form a lodge of Masons in Holden. The first meeting was held in July of that year. In August 1917, the charter to operate was obtained with ten charter members named on it.

The Grand Master of Alberta, M.W. Bro. H. Dailing has his name on this charter.

The first installed chair officers were;

Bro. Chas. H. Ballard — W.M.

Bro. Wm. E. Hayes — S.W.

Bro. H. J. Armitage — J.W.

Other officers and members whose names appear on the charter are;

Bro. T. R. Stokes, known as the father of the lodge.

Bro. C. N. Brisbin

Bro. G. E. McVittie

Bro. H. T. Sandvik

Bro. S. J. Farrell

Bro. A. Zwierschke

Bro. W. C. Stedman

The lodge was christened Dynamic by R.W. Bro. MacIntosh, and this name has endured for 66 years.

The original lodge meetings were held on the upper floor of the Farrell Block, now the site of the Holden Trading store.

The furniture of the lodge was simple; kitchen chairs to sit on, a wood stove for heat, the pedestals and tables were homemade and the lodge was illuminated by oil lamps with reflectors.

The meeting time of 8:30 p.m., on the first Wednesday of each month is still adhered to today.

With the building of the new town hall in 1935, the old fire and town hall became available for other uses. According to records, Dynamic Lodge made a first payment to the Village of Holden for the old town hall in October of 1936. For some time Dynamic used the upstairs while the town used the lower half for a jail and fire hall. Eventually the whole building was taken over by the Masons and completely re-finished inside and now stands as a building dedicated to fraternity and friendship.

The membership through the years has remained relatively constant through good and bad times.

Two local members who have served Masonry well through the years are W. Bro. G. H. Taylor, and R.W. Bro. D. H. Allan.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 296 — Holden

The B.P.O.E. as it is commonly called, was organized in 1945 in Holden with 67 charter members present. There are still 35 of those charter members living, some still in Holden. Exalted Rulers who have served in the Holden Lodge are:

Bro. E. Hardy

Bro. L. Bell

Bro. E. Erickson

Bro. L. Grosland

Bro. A. Sorensen

Bro. J. Thieme

Bro. W. Brushett

Bro. C. J. Giebelhaus

Bro. G. R. Mealing

Bro. W. Ogrodnick

Bro. J. E. Story

Bro. O. Shykora

Bro. Z. Bilyk

Bro. G. W. Kelly

Bro. J. Lindberg

Bro. G. Langford

Bro. E. J. Appleby

Bro. R. Mason

Bro. J. Semotiuk

Bro. E. Ewasiuk

Bro. P. Shtokal

Bro. B. Lutz

Elk's Logo.





Holden Elks travelling gavel, Earl Hardy, Ed Faryna, Joe Lindberg, Gordon Langford, Otto Hurum, Dave Faryna, Joe Fornal, Ted Appleby, Paul Shtokal in front Lyle Grosland and John Semotiuk.



New Year's Eve cooks: John Cebryk, Bert Appleby, Earl Hardy, Eugene Ewasiuk, Paul Shtokal, John Semotiuk, Lyle Grosland.



Lyle Grosland, Earl Hardy, Otto Hurum, Alfred Sorensen, Conrad Huseby holding their life memberships.

Bro. N. Shihinski
Bro. E. Bilyk

Bro. M. Helfrich

Secretary-treasurers who have given faithfully of their time are:

Bro. W. Brushett
Bro. J. Thieme
Bro. G. H. Taylor
Bro. B. Appleby

Bro. L. Olson
Bro. N. Shihinski
Bro. R. Mackay
Bro. J. Semotiuk
Bros. W. Ogradnick

District Deputies from Holden B.P.O.E.
Bro. E. Hardy and Bro. L. Grosland

Aims of the B.P.O.E. in Holden:

The Holden Elks give much visible and some invisible support to our village and the surrounding



Exalted Ruler Grosland (right) of the Holden Elks presented the Holden and District Agricultural Society with a cheque for \$1,000. Accepting the money is President Paul Shtokal.

area. The Purple Cross Fund of our order is set up to supply financial assistance to needy children who need glasses, hearing aids and other medical assistance. We support local sports among the youth in our area with leadership and financial aid. The Elks will always be found assisting the needy or helping out senior citizen organizations, (such as presenting a large color T.V. to the Holden Seniors Lodge).

On New Year's Eve the Elks get together and cook a turkey banquet and arrange a dance and celebration to bring in the New Year. All of the profits from this venture go to supporting the needs of our community. We thank you the citizens of Holden for supporting us so well.

We were very active in completing and furnishing the mezzanine in our sports complex.

The Elks Stampede is described elsewhere under Holden Sports Day.

Wherever something must be done for the betterment of our community, be it running a booth on sports day, or organizing a barbeque, the Elks will probably be there donating their time and enjoying it.

Finally, we would like to be able to thank every Elk who has given of his time over the years. Your name may not appear in these pages but without you, our labours would have been more difficult.

Holden Order of the Royal Purple

by Kathleen Hurum

The Holden Order of the Royal Purple was instituted in 1946 by P.S.H.R.L. Palma Macfee, assisted by Lady Magolis of Camrose. Dorothea Grosland and Reta Stewart were instrumental in the initial organization, and there were forty-five charter members. Today only eight of these members remain, having either moved away, taken their demits or have passed away.



Charter members attend 34th birthday of O.O.R.P. #91, Holden. Kate Nichols, Kathleen Hurum, Mary Hardy, Beth Campbell and Irene Taylor.

The first Honored Royal Lady was Reta Stewart, and it was her zeal and untiring efforts that got the lodge off to a good start. Having no financial means, the members held many fund raising projects, such as card parties, raffles, selling lunch at auction sales and a sports day concession booth, the first of which was located on main street. All our Lodge properties were given as gifts by the members and Earl Hardy, who contributed the flag stands, birthday box, ballot box and gavels.

The first inspection was held in June, 1946. The writer recalls this to be a very stormy night, and in spite of a leaky hall roof, an enjoyable evening was had by all.

On the first Wednesday in June, every Lodge across Canada performs an act of kindness or service. Our first project was a doll, a doll bed and doll clothes made for a little girl. Our second project was a bouquet of flowers and a special nurse for one day for the creamery manager's wife, who was critically ill. These projects have varied over the years and are still held yearly.



Decoration Day at the cemetery, 1979. Mary Hardy, Kathleen Hurum, Ann Rurka, Anne Mielimaka, Emily Ogonoski, Olga Mielimaka, Eleanor Ogonoski, Irene Taylor, Ethel Brekstad and Helen Bilyk.

In 1947, Dorothea Grosland was elected H. R. Lady, and that year our first District Meeting was held; quite an undertaking for a new group, but it was a very successful event. In those days the Holden Lodge was in the Camrose — Edmonton District. In later years this was changed, and is now comprised of Chauvin, Edgerton, Wainwright, Hardisty, Irma, Kinsella, Viking and Holden.

In 1949, Dorothea Grosland was named District Deputy, and the District meeting was held in Holden that year. In August, 1950 we were deeply saddened when it became known that Dorothea Grosland passed away. A rose bowl was purchased in her memory and still adorns our meetings.

Bertha Sanderson and Rene Taylor have also been District Deputies.

It is the objective of the O.O.R.P. to support worthwhile community projects. In 1948 we began sponsoring the Holden Girl Guides and Brownie troop by starting them off with a gift of money, and have since sponsored them by catering to their annual Mother — Daughter banquet. In 1947 it was decided to give a scholarship to the grade XII student receiving the highest marks in six senior matriculation subjects. Audre Liden was the first recipient of this scholarship, which has been offered to deserving students since then. The Lodge has conducted the local canvass for the Cancer Campaign since 1948.

Over the years, contributions to many worthwhile causes have been made. We have sponsored blood donor clinics, campaigned for the cancer fund and C.N.I.B., contributed to Save The Children Fund, the Purple Cross Fund, The Wood Christian Homes, St. Mary's Boys Home, the Marian Centre, Telerama and towards the purchase of Christmas gifts for underprivileged children in Edmonton. At one time we sponsored a travelling library. One of our early projects was the erection of the cemetery gates. Financial contributions were made to the Community Hall, the Complex, Seniors' Drop in Centre and the History Book Committee. We entertain senior citizens once or twice a year. Our latest project was the purchase of a television set for the Holden Lodge. We have entered floats in parades and for many years have had the concession at sports days. We have also catered to Chamber of Commerce banquets, graduation banquets and weddings for many years.

As our motto is Justice, Charity, Love and Fidelity, we try to live up to these principles by being helpful in the community. Our membership is small, but we endeavor to carry on in the same way this year (1982) by hosting the District meeting with 130 ladies attending.

Knights of Columbus Holden Sub-Council submitted by Wm. Ogrodnick

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut, by a young priest, Father Michael McGivney. The Knights of Columbus presently have more than 1.35 million members in some 7,000 councils throughout Canada, United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guatemala, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Special Marian prayer services are being held during 1982 throughout much of the world under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus who are celebrating the 100th year of their foundings.

The Knights of Columbus operate on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.



The Holden Sub-Council of the Knights of Columbus was organized during 1965 functioning under the motherhood of the Lady of the Highway Council #4249, Vegreville, Alberta. The sub-council consisted of members from Bruce, Holden, Ryley and Tofield. Their main activities were organizing youth religious retreats, religious instructions and youth sports. The members met regularly every month to organize these activities and give them financial assistance when needed. The annual social "hilites" were the bonspiel between the Knights and the local Masons; and the steak-fry picnic for the Knights and their families.

Fathers Joe, Adam and Lozynski were the chaplains while the sub-council was functioning. The presiding knights over the years were: Brothers Joe Chamulke, Victor Laskoski, Peter Krasilchuk, Mike Seniuk, Harry Christian, Leo Maruzeczka and William Ogrodnick. The bursars consisted of Brothers Rudy Koppel, Harry Christian, Lawrence Kaluzny, Edwin Klawitter, Peter Krasilchuk, Nick Shihinski, Danny Hrabec and William Ogrodnick.

The Holden Sub-Council has presently amalgamated with the Knights of the Lady of the Highway Council #4249, Vegreville, Alberta.

The Knights of Columbus Sail On!

Holden Seniors Club by Kathleen Hurum

On April 5, 1973 the Holden High School Youth Group, with Cheryl Grosland and Jane Gara convening, entertained the Holden Senior Citizens at a social evening in the community hall, and thus the Holden Senior Club came into being. Otto Hurum was chosen president, Loid Clark vice president, and Kathleen Hurum secretary treasurer. The directors were Ross Zwierschke, Blanche Olson, Lila Giebelhaus and Steve Manowski. There were about



Demolition Crew who tore down the former Blake Brothers' store in order to build the Holden Seniors' Club. Standing: Walter Yasinski, Kathleen and Otto Hurum, Herman Laube, Bud Sizer, George Giebelhaus. Seated: Annie Laube, Kate Nichols, Nellie Stasko, Roy Nichols. Front: Jessie Cwhihula. Missing: Lila Giebelhaus.

twenty charter members. George Baker, County of Beaver Recreation Supervisor, gave us much valuable assistance through the years.

The first couple of years we held our meetings in the school, then we moved to the Legion Hall. We had always wanted to have a drop-in centre but no suitable building could be found. Then in 1977 arrangements were made with the village council to take over the old Bilyk store building. We received the title to this in December 1977.

After checking the building over, it was decided that in no way could it be remodelled, so on March 30, 1978 the demolition began with the women working right along with the men. The new building was started late in June. All the work was volunteer except for plumbing, heating, lighting and carpeting, and much of this was donated. The building was completed early in 1979.

On February 24, 1979 the Grand Opening was held, a very happy occasion for all those who had worked so hard. The programme opened with O Canada and the chairperson, Pearl Allan welcomed about two hundred guests who filled the centre. She stated that this was truly a day of triumph for the small group who had completed this enormous task in less than one year under the leadership of George Giebelhaus.

Distinguished table guests were then introduced by Mrs. Allan. Congratulations and good wishes were extended by Don. Mazankowski, M.P. who presented the club with a picture and a Canadian flag. Mr. John Batiuk, M.L.A. expressed best wishes and gave the club an Alberta flag. Mr. Oleh Shykora presented the club with a plaque and extended best

wishes from the village. He expressed pleasure in having this fine building on main street. President Kevin Stambaugh brought greetings from the Chamber of Commerce. Greetings from the County of Beaver were expressed by Reeve Kropilnicki and Recreation Director George Baker.

Mrs. Kathleen Hurum gave the history of the club. President George Giebelhaus gave a report on trials and tribulations of demolition of the old building and the building of the new centre. He spoke of the drive for funds and thanked all organizations who had donated so generously.

Several members of the Holden High School Homecoming Committee were in attendance. On behalf of the group, Grant Grosland presented the club with the proceeds of their Homecoming, a cheque for \$896.29, a plaque, and their guest book. This surprise was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Williams, the representative from New Horizons presented the centre with an Achievement Certificate and praised the group for their accomplishments.

Reverend Mr. McKinstry in his dedication prayer praised the pioneer spirit, work, and co-operation that had gone into this fine building.

Mr. Mazankowski expressed his pleasure at being asked to officially open the splendid building. He cut the ceremonial ribbon, assisted by Charter Members, Miss June Clark, Mrs. Kate Nichols, Mrs. Lila Giebelhaus, and Otto Hurum.

Greetings were brought by John Semotiuk from the Elks, Mrs. Pearl Shihinski brought greetings and a cheque from the Greek Catholic Ladies' Aid. Bouquets were received from St. Gregory's C.W.L., Hilltop Construction and Holden business section. A telegram was read from Monique Begin, Minister of Health and Welfare.

After closing with God Save the Queen, a social hour was held with coffee being served. Senior Citizens from Ryley, Bruce, Kinsella and Vegreville attended, also other friends from Camrose and Edmonton were there. Many gifts had been received during the year.

Since then the Centre has been open from one to five every afternoon six days a week for any who wished to attend, play pool, cards or shuffleboard. Coffee is always available. Regular monthly meetings are held, and all enjoy a "pot luck" supper near Christmas. Left over building materials were disposed of at an auction. Mike Zowtiuk donated his services. A Bingo outfit was purchased and Bingos are held monthly.

At the annual meeting in 1980 George Giebelhaus retired as president. He was extended a sincere thank you for all his work and leadership. Pete Ogonoski



Official opening of Holden Seniors Club, February 21, 1979. Pearl Allan, Kathleen Hurum, George Giebelhaus, Ron Williams, from New Horizons; Kevin Stambaugh, President of Chamber of Commerce; Oleh Shykora, Mayor of Holden; Don Mazankowski, M. P.; John Batiuk, M. L. A.; Walter Kropielnicki, Reeve of the County of Beaver; Rev. J. McKinstry, Grant Grosland, representing the Holden School Reunion 1950-60; George Baker, Recreation Director for the County of Beaver.

was elected as president and has since guided the club well.

The Club held open house for Alberta's 75th Anniversary and over two hundred guests dropped in to enjoy visiting and lunch.

We have since purchased movie and slide projectors. Films are shown on the first Monday of each of the winter months. The O.O.R.P. entertains us once or twice a year, as do 4-H Clubs, Brownies and Guides. These times are enjoyed by all. Recently we bought a record player.

The Centre provides a pleasant place for the Historical Society History Book Committee to meet and work on the History Book.

The names of the members of the Seniors' Club who are deceased are commemorated on a wall plaque in the Seniors' Centre.

It is our earnest wish that the Centre will be a happy meeting place for years to come.

National Farmers' Union

Holden Local #715 of the National Farmers' Union was chartered at a meeting held in March, 1970 at the Holden Community Hall.

Those who served on the first executive were Stuart MacGregor, President; Art Gibson, Vice-President; Walter Komarnisky, Secretary Treasurer. Albin Lukawiecki, Nick Laskoski and Rudy Kiist were elected directors.

Members who served as president since the inception of the Holden Local are: Steve Gabrysh, Verne Gossman, Lawrence Hrabec, Art Gibson and Rudy Kiist.

Local #715 has been involved in presenting submissions to the government, collective bargaining programs, orderly marketing meetings, workshops and youth exchanges.

Palmer Red Cross

by Emma Knudson

The Palmer Red Cross branch was organized in 1940 at the Tom Bratrud home. This is the only branch to be organized in this rural area. The next meeting was held at the Hans Huseby home when the following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Tom Bratrud; vice-president, Miss Anna Kruger; secretary-treasurer, Miss Emma Forre; executive committee, Mrs. Joe Gunderson, Mrs. Melvin Magneson and Mrs. Hans Huseby. The chartered members were; Mrs. Tom (Carrie) Bratrud, Mrs. Peter Sorensen, Mrs. Joe Gunderson, Mrs. Hans Huseby, Miss Anna Kruger, Miss Emma Forre, Mrs. Sam Johnson, Mrs. O. P. Sorgen, Mrs. Gust Johnson, and Mrs. Conrad Huseby. Meetings were held in different homes every month. In 1943 membership increased



Red Cross and Ladies' Aid Meeting at Sam Johnson's — 1930. Front Row: Seated: Rev. O. N. Falkied, Mrs. L. M. Hovland, Mrs. John Reum, Mrs. O. P. Sorgen and Bobby, Mrs. Lena Pederson, Mrs. Ludwig Hovland, (?), Mrs. Gust Johnson. Standing in group at left: Miss Edna Pederson, Miss Olive Pederson, Miss Kay Hovland, Miss Selma Gunderson, Miss Ebba Sorensen. Standing between pillars: Mrs. Ole Smorlie, Mrs. Einar Westby, Mrs. Alex Hellekson, Mrs. Anna Naslund and Harry, Mrs. Rachael Johnson, Mrs. H. Augustine, Mrs. Gunder Gunderson, Mrs. Peter Sorensen.

to seventeen, including; Mrs. Harry Johnson, Mrs. E. Westby, Mrs. E. Forre, Mrs. Fernie Forre, Mrs. Albert Oppen, Mrs. L. M. Hovland and Miss Dorothy Armstrong (teacher at Palmer School).

Knitting and sewing pyjamas kept the members busy. At each monthly meeting there was a short program of singing or poems directed by Mrs. Tom Bratrud.

In 1957 it was decided to disband as there were too few to carry on; some having moved away and others were deceased. Headquarters asked us to please continue to organize the Red Cross Campaign for this area, which is held every March. This we did, and have continued to do so for the past 42 years. Present canvassers are; Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Meadahl, for Bawlf North, Rueben Hoveland for Holden South and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Knudson for Ryley South. The largest canvass ever made was in 1982 when \$711.57 was collected.

St. Mary's Community Hall

by Nick Laskoski

In 1977 at a meeting of St. Mary's parishioners, a motion was made to invite George Baker, Parks and Regional Recreation Director, to attend our meeting and give us information re — grants available for a community hall, which was badly needed near St. Mary's church. At a meeting in February, 1978, Mr. Baker gave detailed information on procedures to take in getting us started with the project. Members of the board were selected to obtain the cost of the building. The cooperation of the community was tremendous, and in the summer of 1978, work was



St. Mary's Community Hall (South Holden).

started on the site chosen just outside the church property, which was donated by Joe D. Ozubko. There were a lot of legal hurdles to go through including county council's opposition, but with strong determination, cash donations and voluntary labour, the hall was completed with a clear title and all paid for by 1980. That included installation of natural gas, water and sewer.

Our problem now is it's too small because membership increased and many functions are being held throughout the year. It is enjoyed by all. It serves the needs of the church and community.

West Holden Community Club by Doris (Moore) Story

In 1924 Mrs. John Story and Frank Moore decided there was a need for some recreation in the district, so they got the neighbors together and

started a club, called the West Holden Community club. In the fall of the year they called a meeting and put all the names in a hat, and as the names were drawn it was their turn to entertain. The hostess provided the house, coffee and sandwiches and the guests brought the cake.

The living room was cleared of most of the furniture and when the crowd had assembled the heater was carried outside to make more room. The gas mantle lamp was filled and pumped up, and halfway through the evening it went dim and had to be pumped again.

The older ones played cards or just visited and the rest danced, including the little ones until they got tired and were put upstairs to bed. The music was mostly played by Alf. Palmer in the early years, but others helped out. Joe White, Hans Brekstad, Ken Sorgen and Jim Bracegirdle, and Mrs. Kennedy on the organ or piano, Lars Ritland called for square dances.

They used to have pie socials, basket socials and picnics.

In the spring, as close to March the 17 as they could get they had a windup dance, in the Holden Hall. That was a big dance, the hall was always packed.

They put on a play one time, conducted by John Thieme; they had a lot of fun with it.

Their picnics were held at different farms each year; they had races and ball teams, they made ice-cream for the picnics by hand.

They had a men's baseball team that entered in competitions also a girls' softball team.



Red Cross Ladies' Aid at Daily's in 1936. Mrs. Daily Sr., Joan Seccombe, Bella Kennedy behind Jean Ritland, two Story boys, Lottie Stickland, Mable Story, Rene Taylor, Margaret Good, Mrs. B. Chetney, Annie Stackhouse, "Hoosie" Houston, Edna Daily, Elsie Kennedy holding Baby Florence Story.

Agriculture

Seeding Time At McCarthy's

by A. M. Stephen

McCarthy, with the blue sky
curving over his shoulder,
steers his caterpillar
across an ocean of brown earth.

Behind him, arms of steel
and fingers of iron
do the work of a small army of men.

Gone is the man with the hoe,
Gone is the Sower of Millet!

This is the age of machinery.
This is progress.

Seated on a tractor,
man has time to think.

Listen to the profound thoughts
of McCarthy:

"There's a knock in the engine, me boy."

"It's a long way to lunch-time
and the pie that Molly made."



Sig. Burnstad breaking land for Tom Bratrud in 1925.



Harry Appleby (with foot on plow) breaking land about 1905.



Edward Christianson's breaking outfit.



Oscar Afseth moving rock with a "cat".



Chris and Carl Sorensen pulling stumps with horses, about 1923.



Helen Umrysh sitting on the mower.



Chris Afseth's brush cutting outfit — 1926. Chris on engine, Dr. S. J. Farrell (standing), Joe Krupa fireman and Andrew Bobyak on water wagon.



Raking hay at Tkaczyk's in 1945. Peter Tkaczyk on rake, Harry Laskosky and Harry Tkaczyk.



Bucking hay on the Daily farm about 1920.



Hay being put in barn with hay slings.



Haying at the John Bruce farm.



Otto and Barney Hurum cutting grain in 1917.



Cutting grain. Paul Matruchuk on tractor, Anton Semchyshen on binder, David Powley and Dorothy Semchyshen standing by tractor.



Prepared stacks for threshing: Ole Chetney and Gust Newman.



Ross Zwierschke cutting grain with line drive on Case tractor, 1943.



Leo Maruszczyk threshing outfit. Stanley Briak on rack in 1937.



Stack threshing before straw blowers.



Bill Phillip's threshing outfit with steamer.



Ingebrigt Kjosness and his Case steam engine about 1905 or 1906. Back Row: (?), Alfred Kjosness, Ingebrigt Kjosness, (?), (?). Sitting: (?), (?). Front Row: John Jacobson, (?), Pete Haugen.



Bruno and Harry Kempin built this swather in 1949. Used for 16 years.



Combining on Edward Christianson's farm in 1929.



Otto and Oscar Koetke with their 1929 John Deere combine and 15-30 International tractor.



Threshing in the snow in 1942.

Form No. F 385

ALBERTA

\$58.00
9.35
9.35

Morris, Alta., Aug 1906
(Town) (Date)

On or before the first day of December 1908, for value received,

I promise to pay to the **International Harvester Company of America**
(A Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Wisconsin)

or order, the sum of Fifty eight DOLLARS

with interest until maturity at 7 per cent. per annum from date.

After maturity this note shall draw interest at 10 per cent. per annum until paid.

Given for Edt L. Krueger Payable at Verreuil, Alta.
(Town) (Town)

The property in and the title to the goods above mentioned, which I hereby agree to buy, shall remain in the Company and shall not pass to me until full payment of the price thereof, and all obligations given therefor have been paid.

If I sell or attempt to sell the undermentioned land, which I own, or if I make default in payment of this note or any other note or obligation given on account of the said price, or if the Company shall deem itself insecure, the whole amount of the said price and interest thereon and all obligations and notes given therefor shall forthwith become due and payable, and the said Company may forthwith, without making presentment or demand, take action against me therefor; and the said Company may at its option take possession of the said goods and sell the same at private sale or public auction, the proceeds, less expenses, to be applied on the debt, all of which shall be without prejudice to the rights of the said Company to collect the balance remaining unpaid, which I agree to pay forthwith and for which action may be taken against me by the said Company I agree that the said goods shall be at my risk as to damage or destruction from any cause, and that I will pay the said price therefor and interest thereon and all obligations given therefor, notwithstanding that the said goods may become damaged or destroyed.

The land above referred to and which I own is 100 Sec. No. 28 Township No. 16 Range No. 16 in the Province of Alberta,
(Insert what part of section)

Post Office Verreuil Alberta.

Witness to Signature Edt L. Krueger 494 Harry Christianson

Fill out all blank spaces except Number. Signatures by mark must be witnessed. If name is foreign or illegible, write it plainly in margin.

Receipt for a Deering Binder, 1906.



Work bee (seeding) at Tom Kennedy farm when Tom was ill in 1923.



John Hrabec Sr.'s first International Harvester single disc seed drill. It had English printing on one side of disc and Ukrainian on the opposite side.



Bert Daily's well drilling outfit in 1912. Bert Daily at back and Andy Olberg in front.



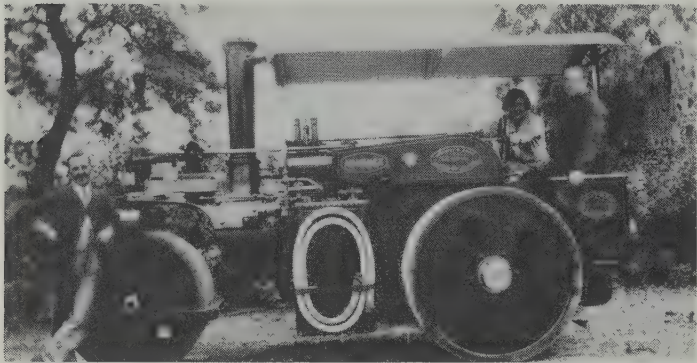
Windmill.



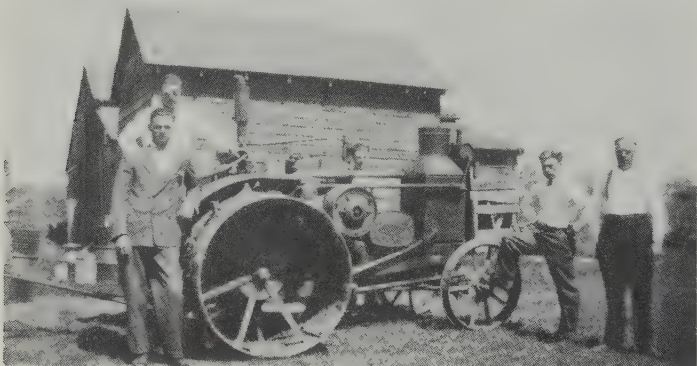
Building log barn. Back Row: Ludwig Roan, ?, Carl Morland, Henry Field, ?, Alfred Strem, Anton Morland. Front Row: ?, Martin Morland, Rollaf Hammer.



Modern barn built by Geo. J. Giebelhaus in 1947.



"Advance" tractor used by the Houstons.



Rumely tractor in 1930. Pete Gizoski, Pete, Jack, Joe and Ludislav Ogonoski.



Chrystian's 101 Massey Harris — 1938. Believed to be the first rubber tired tractor in the Palmer area.



Hauling water.



Butchering. Leonard Shaw and Leonard Willans.



Nose guards used for protection against flies.



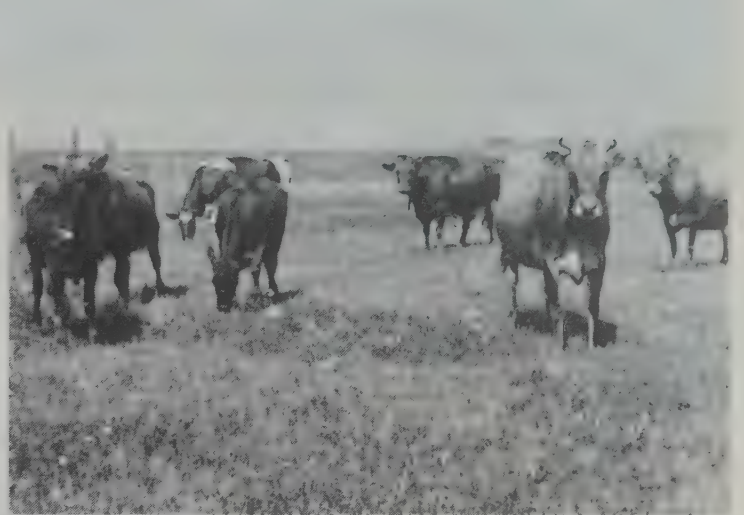
Mike and Sophie Willisko clearing land in 1928.



Oscar Afseth's grain cleaner.



Hauling wood for winter use.



Jack Goodwin's Dairy Herd in 1931.



Sawing wood at John Larsen's farm with a Hart Parr tractor. Helen, Ebba, Lora, Gudrun, Marius and John Larsen.



Typical homestead yard. Esther Larsen feeding the chickens.

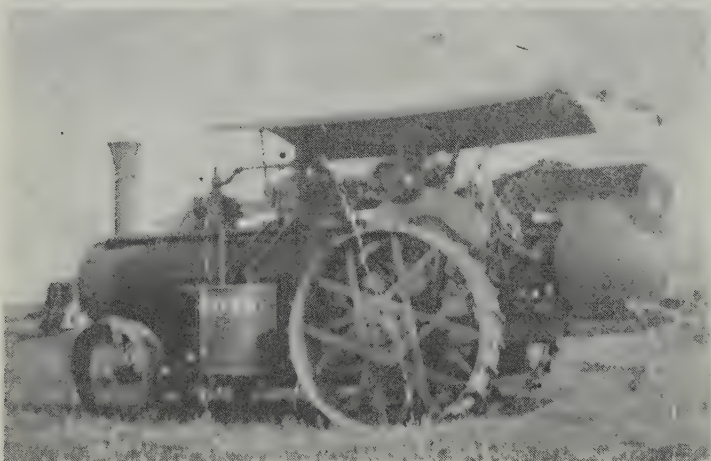
Marquis wheat, suited to Alberta's harsh climate appeared in 1909. By 1911, in all of Alberta some 17 million acres had been settled. In the following ten years this figure rose to 27 million acres.



Fred Koetke's Berkshire hogs (1916). Otto feeding calves, Fred Jr. standing in doorway of building. Original homestead house was built in 1903.



Cutting silage on the Christensen farm. Jack Melezko on right, then Ingeman Petersen, Harold Parsons on rack and Elsie Parsons in the large hat.



Chris Afseth threshing machine threshed for 74 days straight, from south of Holden to two miles southwest of Ohaton.

Churches

Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church Kopernick

by Diane (Kryska) McNeil

As Ukrainian pioneers settled in the Kopernick area, the community grew, and so did their need. One of their first endeavors was the establishment of a church parish.



The new church built in 1952.

In 1903, a claim was filed by the founders, S. Faryna, D. Faryna and G. Stecyk for 40 acres on the northeast corner of NW 16-47-15 with the intention of building a church, but due to a lack of money, it was not until a year later that the \$10.00 registration fee could be paid. In the meantime Divine Liturgy was held in the home of John Soloway, celebrated by Reverend Father Sozont Dydyk, OSBM. Father Dydyk was one of a group of three priests who were the first Ukrainian missionaries to arrive in Canada. He travelled by oxen from Wetaskiwin to our parish for Sunday Mass, and would usually stay the night at the home of John Soloway.

In 1904, a committee was elected and plans for a new church were started. The first committee consisted of Joe Skolney as president, Mr. Anton Tchir as vice-president, John Soloway as secretary, and Alex Kryska as treasurer. They collected a \$1.00



Some of the parishioners of the Kopernick Church taken in about 1940. Standing: S. Karchut, J. Czapski, D. Faryna, B. Dolaney, B. Kalita, R. Wynnnyk, N. Wandio, Mrs. A. Skolney, Mrs. B. Papirniak, M. Nahirniak, Mrs. M. Nahirniak, Mrs. Josephision, Mrs. T. Shehinski. Front Row: Mrs. K. Rutar, Mrs. E. Balko, Mrs. M. Faryna, Mrs. A. Kryska, Mrs. M. Karchut, Mrs. A. Zoroslak, Mrs. Dolaney, Mrs. Wynnnyk.

membership fee from each of the 54 members so that construction could begin in the fall. For months, the parishioners cut and hauled heavy logs, and by winter had completed some of the walls of the church. It measured 18 feet by 30 feet. In the spring of 1905 their efforts were destroyed by fire. Undaunted, they pressed on and by fall of 1905 were celebrating the completion of the first Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church. It was built of shaped logs, was 20 feet by 34 feet, and had one large dome. The interior was finished with boards and the entire cost was \$700.00. Many of the faithful had to travel long distances, often on foot, to attend Sunday Mass.

Around 1909 a bell tower, designed to hold a single bell, was built by J. Motkoski. The bell was christened "John". Its pleasant ring signalled the start of the Divine Liturgy and could be heard for miles.

By 1914, the church membership had grown to 66 and at an annual meeting in January, it was decided that a larger church was needed. Each member donated \$120.00 towards the construction cost, and under the direction of Reverend Father Mathew Hura,

OSBM, work began in the spring. The church committee was, president, G. Stecyk; vice-president, J. Danilak; secretary, S. Karchut; treasurer, J. Trupak; and O. Stayura, P. Polchoyke as auditors. Two additional members, Mr. Mikolasha and Mr. Czesopalka were elected to help with planning.

The parishioners excavated the basement by hand and brought the necessary materials to the work site, and also contracted the services of a carpenter for \$6,400.00. The floor plan of the church was in the form of a cross. The inside was varnished and the outside was painted. Heat was supplied through a large wood-coal furnace. Although wooden pews had already been purchased, all the rest of the articles and furnishings were added by donations from the members totaling \$4,000.00. When the church was completed, the old one was put up for sale and sold for \$205.00.



Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church at Kopernick built in 1914. Destroyed by fire in 1951.

The corner stone for the new church was blessed by His Excellency Nicetas Budka in 1914 and he later returned in 1917 to officiate at the blessing of the church. His Excellency Budka was the first Ukrainian Bishop for Canada.

The church was an integral part of community life during the 1930's and it soon became necessary to have a larger meeting place for community and church events. The answer to this was the Taras Shevchenko Hall (Kopernick Hall), built in 1933. Most of the labour and construction of this 30 foot by 70 foot building was done by parish members, and its total cost was about \$3,500.00. Winter months saw the staging of Ukrainian concerts which were held on a regular basis, and with the installation of a power plant, the young people took the opportunity to build a hockey rink. The water was hauled in a 500 gallon tank, using a bobsled. The rink had three-foot boards and electric lights for skating in the evening.

Throughout the years dances and silent movies were very popular. Children attended catechism classes taught by sisters during the summer.

In 1942, an esthetic dimension was added to the interior of the church. Peter Lipinski of Edmonton was commissioned for \$1,800.00 to paint full-figure religious murals of saints on the walls, and angels on the ceiling. This church served its people for 37 years, but as fate would have it the last mass was held on Sunday, December 30, 1951 for by 3:00 a.m. of December 31 the church was reduced to cinders, by fire of undetermined cause.

Within one month, a special building committee for a new church was elected: John Skolney, chairman; Fred Mydlak, secretary; John Faryna, treasurer; and Pete Yurko and Peter Gizoski as auditors. The following spring a full basement was excavated by Walter Howrish for the sum of \$500.00 and construction of the new church began with Roman Werys as the carpenter (paid \$2.25 per hour) and his helpers were paid \$1.60 per hour. Parishioners and other community members volunteered their labour and in addition, each of the 43 church members donated an initial sum of \$100.00 toward expenses.

Near the church was a Father's Residence which was sold in 1959 to Pete Doliney, for \$610.00. This residence had been built in 1937, after the first one burnt in 1935. The church is made of brick, with stucco-finish and measures 32 feet wide by 74 feet long. It has one large central dome with four smaller ones, one at each corner. The corner stone and the five crosses on the domes were blessed in the summer of 1953 by His Excellency Neil Savaryn, OSBM, D.D., Bishop of Edmonton. The neighbouring parishes as well as the choir from Borschiw were invited to participate in the celebration.

Work on the church continued, with Father B. Lozynsky carrying on the duties of parish priest from Father D. Baziuk, in 1957. Sunday Mass was held in the Kopernick Hall until such time as the church could be used. The interior of the church was finished with hard masonite, and additions included an oil furnace in 1961; and in 1964, linoleum, carpeting and pews were installed. The total cost of construction was over \$50,000. The roof of the church was cedar-shingled and painted green. However, after a severe hailstorm, in 1970, the roof was redone with new asphalt shingles. The domes had to be repaired and all the stained glass windows on the west side had to be replaced. The damage from the strong winds, hail and rain totalled \$14,758.00.

The church was blessed on July 6, 1969 during a ceremony officiated by His Excellency Bishop Savaryn, and he was to return almost exactly ten years later on June 17, 1979 for the 75th anniversary of the

parish. He celebrated Pontifical Mass and blessed a commemorative monument which was erected in honour of the Ukrainian pioneers, founders and members of the Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church. Special guests, also in attendance, were Reverend Fathers J. Kratko, M. Martynkiw, E. Yarema, D. Weleschuk; Honourable Don Mazankowski, M.P.; Mr. John Batiuk, M.L.A.; and The Knights of Columbus. Over the 75 years many priests served this parish. Their names were as follows: Reverend Fathers S. Dydyk, M. Hura, B. Ladyka, N. Kryzanowsky, J. Tymochko, M. Hannas, G. Zydan, S. Diakovich, B. Kamenetsky, Savaryn, M. Sianchuk, N. Kohut, Rachkun, Popowich, Hmilar, Soroka, H. Filipow, Chverski, T. Dobko, S. Shewchuk, Pylypiw, Truche, J. Slota, Chymij, Hrynshn, Horisznyj, Bilyk, D. Baziuk, B. Lozynsky, M. Martynkiw and A. Zachariasevych.

The parish today has 23 members. Reverend Father A. Zachariasevych presides, and John Stechynski is choirmaster. The present committee consists of Eugene Yarema, president; Harry Balko, vice-president; Nick Marko, secretary; Joe Nahirniak, treasurer; Peter Kryska, recording secretary; and Peter Kiziak, Peter Kryska and Lawrence Makarowski as auditors.

Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church

Birth of the Church

The Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church has its roots in Kansas, U.S.A. In 1908, Mr. Adam Gienger, and in 1912, the August Miller family, members of the Evangelical Church in Kansas, moved to Canada resettling in the Lavoy area. In 1914, Rev. J. S. Domm, an Evangelical minister from Edmonton, held a service in the Martins Schoolhouse (now known as the John Adams Schoolhouse),



Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church — 1941.

upon the invitation of these pioneer Evangelicals. In December, 1916, Rev. Domm conducted the first series of Revival meetings in the Schoolhouse. Some of the first to join the fellowship in these early years were Mrs. E. Eberhart and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Grinde.

In the year 1917, the Emmanuel Evangelical Church was organized, consisting of eleven members. Mr. and Mrs. August Miller, Christine Miller (Gienger), Albert Miller and Mr. Adam Gienger transferred their membership from Kansas. New members from the community were Mr. John Gienger, Mr. Ed Gienger, Mr. and Mrs. John Eberhart, Miss E. Miller (Mrs. John A. Giebelhaus), and Mrs. Adam Gienger.

The denomination to which the church belonged was The Evangelical United Brethren, Northwest Canada Conference. As of 1970, this conference became its own denomination under the name The Northwest Canada Conference of The Evangelical Church.

From the beginning, services were held in various locations such as the Martins Schoolhouse, the Mayflower Schoolhouse, the Miller and Gienger homes. The church was first served by circuit ministers from Edmonton. Usually the minister travelled to Holden by train, some by horse and buggy, one by bicycle!



Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church — 1981.

Growth of the Church

During these early years, several series of Revival meetings were conducted. In 1921, for example, eighteen persons' lives were changed under the ministry of Rev. Martin, Rev. Domm, and Mr. Fosler. Other points of worship, such as the West Bruce Schoolhouse came into existence for those too far from the Martins School. As a result of interest shown in the Lavoy area, a new worship point was begun in the Victory Schoolhouse in 1930. In 1943,

this fellowship combined their membership with the list at the Emmanuel Church.

Building the Church

As a result of steady growth, the young congregation was soon feeling the need for a more central place of worship. In 1922, Rev. Martin led a group of ambitious men in the construction of the original church building. Having the experience of eleven church constructions, Rev. Martin, chief carpenter and oldest man on the team, climbed the spire to nail on the shingles. The plot of land on which the church stands was part of the farm of John Gienger, son of Adam Gienger. Present for the dedication of the church after its completion in 1922 was Rev. B. Weiner from Naperville, Illinois.

Additions and improvements have been made to the church over the past 60 years. In 1941, a vestibule was added and a full basement with a furnace was put under the church. Dedication services were held in September, 1941, with Dr. Krueger as guest speaker. In 1962, electric power was installed and later an oil furnace replaced the coal heated system.

In 1980-81, the church saw its most significant physical changes. The original church was completely refurbished; the new addition more than doubled its size. The present building serves the congregation with a larger sanctuary, a spacious foyer, restrooms, nursery, increased Sunday School space, kitchen, fellowship room and lower auditorium.

Ministers of the Church

The following is a list of ministers who have served the Emmanuel Church.

1916 Rev. J. S. Domm	1937 Rev. A. J. Grams
Rev. F. E. Martin	1946 Rev. E. Streitz
1924 Rev. A. A. Rieger	1948 Rev. J. P. Dyck
1925 Rev. L. K. Eidt	1949 Rev. E. A. Sagert
1926 Rev. E. M. Gishler	1954 Rev. D. W. Maetche
Rev. A. G. Knopp	1954 Rev. A. R. Lieske
1929 Rev. E. J. Roleder	1958 Rev. D. L. Schindell
1932 Rev. W. F. Krotz	1961 Rev. E. Bayley
Rev. T. Yackel	1963 Rev. D. W. Maetche
1935 Rev. J. Doerksen	1965 Rev. F. Becker
1936 Rev. F. Ewald	1970 Rev. J. McKinstry
	1980 Rev. L. E. Brown



Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church Congregation. Back Row: Roy Remin, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kercher, Tracy Bauer, Rudy and Justien Steinwand, Bram and Anneka Van der Torre, Dennis and Gerald Steinwand, Pete and Clara Traudt, Bryan Schultz, Kelly and Lyle Bauer, Paul McKinstry. Middle Row: Arnold and Irene Fried, Bonnie and Brenda Fried, Darlene Steinwand, Lois Schultz, Herman and Carolyn Bauer, Herb and Janet Kiist, Mrs. Remin, Mrs. Emma Kiist, Fred and Carolyn Kiist, Dennis and Emma (baby Sherise) Fried, Tillie Jones, John Albrecht. Far Right: Rev. and Mrs. Lawson Brown, Ashley, David, Michael Van der Toore, Chrystal Bauer, Sheldon and Shaun Fried, Candace and Pam Kiist, Lynnette Steinwand. Missing: Albert and Esther Ergezinger, Elgar Grinde, Lorna Grinde, Harold and Mildred Litwin, Kevin Litwin, Bryan and Bonnie Litwin, Melvin and Mary Ann Fried, Jack and Ella Pipke, Terry Pipke, David Schultz, Valerie Steinwand, Matilda Traudt, RoseMarie Traudt.

Milestones of the Church

Sunday, April 16, 1972, 275 people gathered to celebrate fifty years of service as a church. Present and sharing in the celebrations were the Revs. McKinstry, Sagert, Knopp, Kieske, and F. Pahl. Superintendent Rev. T. E. Jesske spoke in all three services. Lay leader Robert Schultz extended greetings to everyone present. Mrs. McKinstry welcomed the friends in the German language.

June 21, 1981, marked the day we celebrated the completion of the new addition and the refurbished original church. In the afternoon service, Superintendent Rev. L. V. Myers addressed and led over 200 worshipers in the dedication ritual. Rev. A. H. Brown and son Rev. L. E. Brown spoke in the evening and morning services. Greetings were extended by Rev. J. McKinstry, Mrs. (Streitz) Lahl, Rev. H. Leischner, Rev. A. Lindley, Mrs. Knopp, and Albert and Ruth Lieske. Mrs. John A. Giebelhaus graced the service with her presence, the only living Charter Member of the church. Many shared in music, including our own Celebration Band.

In loving memory of Elmer and his father Robert, the Schultz family donated a handsome new piano on this occasion. The Arnold Fried family placed an organ in the church on this day as well. As a part of the dedication ritual, the Building Committee and the Board of Trustees presented themselves at the front of the sanctuary. Herman Bauer was recognized for his fine skills as Chairman of the Building Committee and the hundreds of hours he gave to this project. This was truly a day of joy and celebration.

Program of the Church

1982 marks our 60th year as a church. Until 1954, the services were conducted in the German language. After the passing of brother Kiist in 1968, the Adult Sunday School Class also moved to the use of English.

Emmanuel Evangelical Church is committed to the following Statement of Purpose:

Our purpose is to worship God,
To be discipled in His Word,
To minister to one another,
To reach out in love to the lost.

The church provides Sunday School for all ages, an active Youth Fellowship, Evangelical Women's Society, Young Adult Fellowship, and Vacation Bible School.

Each Sunday we gather to worship God, to sing praises in company with the Band, and to hear from God's Word. On Wednesdays, there are Bible Study groups or special study series.

Our hope is that we can truly say these words, as penned by the apostle Paul: "And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with

all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ" (Colossians 1:28).

The Holden Lutheran Church by Dorothea Mathews — Historian

The year is 1904, no province of Alberta, no village of Holden and no Lutheran Church, a picture very difficult for us to imagine. Many Scandinavian settlers of Lutheran background came to this area to carve a new life from the prairie. After basic physical needs had been attended to, spiritual needs also required nourishment, so we find them in 1904 meeting for the purpose of organizing Bethania Congregation. This was the name given to a little congregation situated south of the present village of Holden, first served by Pastor C. S. Halvorson and a board of trustees made up of Edward Jacobson, Andrew Evenson and Jacob Ritland. Charter members consisted of the family names of Evenson, Ritland, Jacobson, Tangen, Fodness and Hanson.

In 1906, Dr. Egedahl accepted a call to serve Bethania, Vermillion, another small congregation, north of the present village of Holden, Trinity and Golden Valley, the latter belonging to the Viking parish.



Bethania Lutheran congregation met at the Ritland home-
stead for church services in the early days.

At first services were held in homes and schools. Even though they were irregular they were usually well attended, the settlers being eager to hear the word of God.

1909 brought the railroad and with it the birth of the village of Holden. On July 18, 1909 we find the congregations of Bethania and Vermillion having a joint service. Three young people, Bertha and Einar Wold and Jacob Jacobson were received by confirmation into the congregation on this day.

In 1910 the two congregations met in Johnson and Hurum Hall, later known as Liden's Store, for the purpose of discussing the merger of the two. It was decided to name the new congregation the Holden Scandinavian Lutheran Church adopting as its constitution that of the United Lutheran Church. The

first officers of the congregation were: President — H. T. Egedahl; Secretary-Treasurer — Ingvald Mehus; Trustees — Jacob Ritland, Harold and Alfred Hurum; Deacons — Lars Johnson, G. J. Soland and C. B. Fodness and having as it charter members those who had joined the original church in 1904 and now moved to Holden. Many new names were added to the membership. Among them we find Vold, Arneson, Olson, Sorenson, Langen, Roseth, Burnstad, Gullickson, Lindbeck, Glaim, Kjosness, Grosland, Christianson and others.

At first the services were held in the various homes of the members, but by 1911 we find the congregation having growing pains. Homes were no longer large enough and so the Methodist Church, the present United Church, was rented for \$1.00 per service until the summer of 1915.

In 1914 the Ladies' Aid bought the church lots for \$237.50. A building committee was elected to find out the cost of building a church 30' x 40' x 16' high. The proposed cost was \$1200. The present church was built in 1915 under the supervision of a committee of Harold Hurum, Einar Arneson and Paul Kjosness.



Holden Lutheran Church.

Following is an excerpt from the **Life Story of Harold Hurum** describing the building of the church and the installation of the bell:

"I got elected to a committee of three to build a church in Holden. A mass meeting of all Lutherans had some idea of how it should be done. There was not so much to go on, many being undecided. After the building got up, two of us got the idea that a little change should be made so it would look better. The third man, who was a carpenter and a very good man, thought it would be too expensive and he could not contribute any more money than he already had. The other man would propose a motion and I would second it. This was done more than once. We two were very keen the whole time and we knew that anything that didn't get done now would probably never get done.

I went to the bank manager and asked if the church required additional money in its building would the bank lend money. He said we could get all we wanted. The other man, Paul Kjosness, a capable Trondheimer, said, "Listen Hurum, don't you think we should have a church bell?"

"Ja," I said, "We already owe so much that a little more or less isn't going to make any difference."



Holden Lutheran Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Kjosness, Mrs. Evenson, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Hurum, Mrs. Wohl, Lily Christianson, Mrs. Leungh, Mrs. Christianson, Mrs. Benrud, Esther Hurum, Laura Christianson, Clarence Fjellstrom.

The bell came from Chicago and weighed 2000 pounds. One Saturday afternoon it was brought from the station and put down beside the church. Soon there was a crowd of people looking at the big bell. Most had a good laugh at the sight of this bell and the rest figured it wouldn't be possible to get it up into the church tower. "Who says it can't be done?" called out Paul Kjosness. Solid planks were set up against the tower's window, Paul himself went in and placed large tongs in the tower, two good horses with tackle were used, and up went the bell so fine — to the disappointment of quite a few of the pessimistic watchers. Within thirty minutes the bell sent out its deep gong calling out to a large circle of people.

The church was now finished and we owed \$1000 on our undertaking."

Nels Nelson donated all the materials for the altar which was ably built by Even Olson. Even Olson also built the altar railing, the pulpit, the baptismal font and donated the picture for the altar.

Up until 1922 all the business of the church was run by the men, it was decided to change the constitution so that any woman of the age of 21 in the Holden congregation could have a vote.

The Lord has provided our church with good and faithful shepherds. Following is a list of the pastors that served our church:

C. S. Halvorson	1904-1906
Dr. H. T. Egedahl	1906-1912
A. E. Hanson	1913-1917
Chr. Haverstein	1918-1923
T. T. Boe	1923-1926
M. A. Bjilde	1926-1934
Chr. Haverstein	1936-1938
A. M. Vinge	1939-1943
G. J. Ostrem	1944-1948
S. R. Johnson	1949-1951
M. Aalen	1952-1955
M. A. Steiestol	1956-1964
S. Rude	1965-1968
J. Precht	1969-1976
G. A. Barr	1977-1981
S. Haugen	1981-

The first children to be baptized in the church after its organization in Holden were Hazel Kjosness, Hazel Grosland, Henry Logan and Maria Jacobson. The first one to be confirmed was Bertha Jacobson.

As with any building, our church has required the usual upkeep of mending, painting and remodelling. The willing hands of the members have always found time and money to look after these needs. 1958 saw the installation of water and sewer, 1961 cement walks, 1966 the building of the Sacristy, 1972 a new heater in the basement, 1978 carpet on the outside steps, 1979 new cement floors and new toilets in the bathrooms and new eavestroughs. In the summer of 1980 we had the roof resingled and were all sad-

dened to see the steeple come down due to rotting. Our members and many other Holden residents have commented on how they miss the weather vane which adorned the steeple.

Memorial gifts that enhance the inside of our church are pews, colored windows, lights for the organ and altar, offering plates, a hymn board, hymn books, Bibles, the aisle carpet, new velvet and fringe for the pulpit and altar, as well as others.

The Lutheran Church Women, formerly known as the Women's Missionary Federation, was first organized in 1902 by Mrs. Olaf Norlie. Although small in membership it is still very active. Through the years it has provided funds for the building of the church, the pastor's salary in lean years, utility bills and church furnishings. They have also supported the Sunday School, Camrose Lutheran College, the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, the Bethany Home, Hastings Lake Bible Camp, the Bethany Children's Home, Lutheran World Relief, the Bible Society, World Mission Prayer League and various other worthwhile causes. As well as monthly Bible Study, their other activities include quilting, a fall bazaar, and catering to banquets and auction sales. An altar carpet, blinds, and a new vacuum cleaner are some of their more recent purchases.

Holden Lutheran Church was one of the forerunners in using the new Lutheran Book of Worship. Pastor Barr began teaching us the Service of the Word even before the books were printed.

Presently our affairs are run by Lyle Grosland as President, Charles Mathews as Vice-President, Dorothea Mathews as Secretary, Kathleen Hurum as Treasurer, a board of trustees consisting of Don Hultholm, Alfred Gibson, and Hilmer Olsen and a board of deaconesses comprised of Irene MacGregor, Margaret Olsen and Ethel Brekstad. Presently we have a Parish Church School held every Wednesday afternoon in Ryley. Yearly activities are a fellowship supper, Lenten Services, a joint congregational picnic with Viking at Hastings Lake Bible Camp and Vacation Bible School.

Holden Lutheran Church has celebrated its 50th, 60th, and 75th anniversaries. Special celebrations were held so that former pastors and members could come back and enjoy a day or weekend of special events with the present members and pay tribute to the pioneers, who because of a hungering for God's word and christian fellowship joined together to build this church of ours. What faith and what courage they must have had, but let us not forget all the pastors and members who have since contributed much, both materially and spiritually, to the growth and prosperity of our church.

A Chicken Dinner & Bazaar

Under The Auspices Of The
Lutheran Ladies' Aid
Will Be Held In The
Lutheran Church Basement
— On —

Saturday, November 13.

Dinner will be served from 12
to 2 P. M.

Price of Dinner **25c** and **35c**—
Bazaar Immediately Following.

This advertisement appeared in the Holden Herald in 1937.

Holden United Church told by Beth Campbell

When I arrived in this country in 1918, the Church was already doing a wonderful job. It was a "united" church really although it was called Methodist.

Actually the first service on record was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Story and was conducted by Reverend R. E. Findley in 1902. Between 1903 and 1906 this place was called Vermillion Valley, which along with Longridge, a few miles east, were appointments of the Tofield Circuit under the Manitoba Conference. At the first Alberta Conference held in 1906, this place went under the name of Vermillion Valley Mission and was served when possible, by what was called "Saddleback Preachers", who most often came from Tofield.

The early activities of the church centered around the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell, my late husband's parents. They lived on a farm two miles west of Holden on the highway. Church services were held at the farm and everyone brought their lunch for they needed the fellowship with one another as well as to hear the word of God and sing the beautiful old hymns of the Church. Mrs. Campbell was the organist and I still have her organ.



Holden United Church.

Meanwhile, the town of Holden was being born. Mr. T. A. Liden's store was one of the first buildings, and services moved to the upstairs of this building where people sat on planks held up by nail kegs. A summer student was supplied and he lived in a little

shack behind the Chinese restaurant. The railway came through in 1909 and by 1910 the Church was ready for the first service held in the basement. By 1912 the Church upstairs was completed and the building was dedicated to the glory of God. Dr. Farrell, who was mayor of Holden at the time spurred the settlers on in the building of the Church by saying, "Who do you think is going to settle here if we haven't got a Church spire to attract them?"

Money was very scarce in those days but the labour was free and the women thought of many ways to make money; hot dog stands on the street, 10¢ servings of cake and ice cream, brown bread and Boston baked beans, pancake suppers, teas and chicken dinners. They had wood stoves, oil lamps and brought their own dishes and cutlery but they did not complain for they loved the fellowship.

Arthur Willans, brother of Len Willans, served as a missionary for the Methodist Church about 1910 and Reverend M. R. Gordon as Presbyterian minister conducted services in both Holden and Ryley. He played some part also in the erection of the present church.

In the early years the Church was served by student ministers who did not stay long. In 1911, Mr. Brett was here, followed by Mr. Thompson in 1912, Mr. Baker in 1913 and Mr. S. R. Laycock in 1913. Both the latter went overseas in 1914. When there was no minister, Mr. Stokes and his son Tom often served. From 1914 to 1916 Mr. H. Bosomworth served as a student minister. In 1918 a Mr. Stuttle came from England to serve as a student minister. He was followed by Charles Pinder, the first ordained minister, who lived with his wife Phyllis in a little house near the school as there was no manse.

Reverend Stanley R. Hunt was the first minister to live in the manse which was bought from Mr.



C.G.I.T. group in 1921: Beulah Edmonds, Annie Pasnak, Mabel Thompson, Bernice Shore, Doris Moore, Ann ?, Millie Thompson, Cora Maynard, Elsie Burnstad, Nellie Moore, Gertrude Nichols, Rena Brown, Marie Edmonds, Josie Maruszczyka, and teacher, Miss Ellingson.

McVittie. He stayed till 1923. Mr. Len Willans recalls that Mr. Hunt officiated at his and Olive's wedding.

I remember the Church Union in 1925 and the criticism regarding it, for not everyone thought it a good thing. Mr. Percy Sutton and his wife Phoebe were living in the manse at that time, and the congregation was so busy paying for it, I don't think there was even a celebration. The Church then wasn't the well kept building we have today, but it had something we lack today, a large congregation regardless of what time of day services were held. Hymn sings were often held in people's homes and were a great joy to many.

Grandma Brisbin sent to her home church in Listowell, Ontario for a communion cup and wine pitcher. After we got individual cups, she gave the cup to me and I had it resilvered and gave it to Reverend Bill Beckstead when he was ordained. Mrs. Brisbin was the grandmother of Dr. Frank Brisbin of the Toronto office of the United Church. The pulpit chair was given in memory of Frank's father, who was the first school principal in Holden.

When Percy Sutton left, Reverend McPherson, who had been a Presbyterian minister at Ryley, came to live in the manse and served both towns. His wife started the first W.M.S. He was followed by Reverend Bosomworth who spent four years here. He had two sons, Eric and Neil. He made and presented the pulpit and the table to the Church. Reverend Smith and Reverend Bell were the next two ministers. Reverend Bell officiated at Pearl and Don Allan's wedding.



Holden United Church Sunday School Class around 1943.

We held our thirty year celebration in 1940. Our minister was Reverend Tom Stainton who was ordained while he was here. He exchanged pulpits with Reverend C. E. Rogers who was the minister in Daysland. We had morning service and dinner; then showed slides and reminisced in the afternoon.

The Church was doing well at this time. We had C.G.I.T., Trail Rangers and a wonderful Sunday School, which I taught in for forty years.

After Reverend Stainton's departure, Reverend Geeson came to spend six years with us. He was followed by Reverend C. MacKay and it was during his ministry that a new church was built in Bruce (1950) to replace the old school house which had been destroyed by fire. Reverend MacKay left in the middle of the year for Vermilion and newly ordained Reverend Allan Duncan and his wife Shirley arrived, young and full of enthusiasm.

Next, a student minister Bill Beckstead and his wife Bunny lived at the manse for the next six years. Bunny started a choir in Bruce, and while they were here the first manse was sold and a newer house purchased from Albert Pederson. After Bill's ordination the family moved to Castor. The Becksteads had three children, Bruce, Charlotte and Bonnie.

A young man, newly ordained, Reverend Doug Faris came from Ontario to serve us when the Becksteads left. He was followed by Reverend K. Hessels who with his wife Christine had recently come from Holland and was recently ordained. He was instrumental in the forming of the U.C.W.



United Church Choir. Back Row: Dorothy Bateman, Jack and Debbie Semotiuk, Marlene Kelly, Denise Good. Second Row: Shauna Sen, Darlene Shavchook, Donna McFadyen, Brenda Sen, Susan Cooper, Olive Good, two Lindberg girls.

Reverend J. Ruxton was ordained while in Holden in 1966. He and his wife were from Scotland. Reverend R. Bateman whose wife was the former Dorothy Geeson, daughter of a previous minister, came next. Dorothy was active in choir. It was during this time (1967) that the Bruce Church closed and its congregation became part of Holden's.

When the Batemans left, Mr. Jim Watson served for a time and was the last to live in the Holden manse. From September 1971 we have been served by Tofield. Reverend Stan Bessey was the first minister from Tofield to serve us and he was followed by Reverend Peter Walker, 1974, who was ordained during his stay. A new manse was built in Tofield 1975, at this time. Reverend Walker participated in the Church's celebration of fifty years of union in Holden. Reverend Hessels returned to preach the morning service which was followed by dinner and an afternoon sermon delivered by Reverend Walker.

Reverend David Moddle arrived in 1976, a young man with a great musical talent. When he left in 1980 Reverend Dan Newell and family arrived to serve us.

In 1978 Don Allan resigned as treasurer after thirty-three years of service.

Excerpts — taken from the Holden Herald in 1911

A meeting of much importance was held in the Grace Methodist Church, Wainwright, on February 23rd and 24th. It was the first meeting of the joint committee of Methodists and Presbyterians of the Wainwright district in connection with the work of preventing overlapping in mission work by these two churches.

After careful consideration of the whole district the following arrangements were effected:

The Presbyterians are to have charge of the territory from range one to range seven along G.T.P. including Orbindale and Paradise Valley.

The Methodists to have charge of the territory from range seven to range fourteen along G.T.P. extending West of Wainwright to Bruce inclusive. Wainwright missions were not included in this arrangement.

The following resolution was passed re Ryley and Holden: That it is strongly recommended that the people seek to carry out amalgamation of Methodists and Presbyterians at both Ryley and Holden, in view of the Presbyterian Church withdrawing from Holden and the Methodist Church withdrawing from Ryley and that a sub-committee of the superintendents of missions be appointed to further this amalgamation.

Record of Holden United Church (author unknown)

The first Methodist church service that is recalled was held in 1902 by Rev. R. S. Longley of the Methodist Church in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Story. In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Campbell opened their home to the church service and Rev. R. S. Longley continued the services and the preaching point became known as Vermillion Valley. The services were continued at this point until 1907 when it was decided to move the place of assembly to the Pleasant Ridge School. Another preaching point was Long Ridge.

The first building that the Presbyterians used as a place of worship was where the old Royal Bank is now located. The first Board of Management was Dr. Farrell, Messrs. Geo. McVittie, W. E. Hayes and Chas. Dumble.

In 1910, the Methodist Church built our present place of worship. It was used partly furnished for over a year and on being completed in 1911, in June in the pastorate of Rev. R. H. Brett, was formally dedicated by Rev. Chas. E. Bland, Professor of Church History in Alberta College South.

For a considerable time till 1914, this church was the only dedicated place of worship in Holden. For some time the Presbyterian and the Lutheran congregations held their services in our present church building.

The various student pastors who have served this charge are: 1902-3 R. S. Longley — who is now a missionary in Scheshan, China, 1903-4 Fred Cox, 1904-5 W. G. Shaw.

Holden United Church Women

In May 1909 a group of ladies met at the Mumford residence where Mrs. S. W. Davidson moved, seconded by Mrs. Chase that a Ladies' Aid be organized. Lila Lake became the first secretary but no one would let their name stand for president at that meeting. The first dues were 10¢ and paid by: Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Brisbin, Miss Brisbin, Mrs. Grosland, Miss Stewart, Miss Hendrickson, Miss Lake, Miss S. Mumford, Miss F. Mumford, Mrs. Mumford, Miss Hendrickson, Mrs. Grosland, Miss Andrews, and Miss G. Lake.

In 1911 the Holden Herald recorded a chicken supper was held to help the building fund of the Methodist Church — price per person — 25¢ — chicken, cranberries, salad, cake, pies, fruit, tea and coffee — followed by a program.

It was also recorded that in 1927, a play (the first of many), named "The Country Cousin" was put on to raise money.

The Ladies' Aid later became the Women's Auxiliary with the first meeting being held in 1959.

The inaugural meeting which changed the name to United Church Women was held in 1962 with Rev. C. Hessels presiding.

Polska Church

In 1905, Father Paul Kulawy came from Edmonton several times a year to have mass and hear confessions, and to perform marriages and baptisms in Kopernick (later Polska). A year later in 1906, Father Kulawy had a meeting at the M. Szczepaniecs' home in order to let the people know that he wanted a chapel built. He wanted the chapel to be about 26 x 16 and it was to have a steeple, and a bell in it. The people agreed to build a chapel, and also to fence the property that was donated for a cemetery. The land for this chapel and cemetery was donated by Jan Szczurek and Jan Miciak.

The people brought dry logs from their farms and all helped willingly. Mr. Joe Motkowski was the chief carpenter. The walls were logs, covered with lumber. That winter the chapel was ready for the first mass which was celebrated in March 1907, and then held every second month. Each family donated \$2.00 for the priest's salary.

Then in July of 1907 Bishop Grandin came to Polska to hold confirmation, especially for the older

children and adults that hadn't been confirmed before. It was at this service that Bishop Grandin announced to the parishioners that they needed a larger church.

In 1909, after receiving a loan from the bank, the people started to build a larger church. Everyone helped in any way they could and donated all their labor. In 1910, the inside of the church was finished. In 1917 Father Kulawy hired a painter to paint the inside of the church and to build a steeple.

The Bishop came to bless the lovely new church and christened it "St. John the Baptist". The large bell was donated by Jan Szczurek, Joe Motkowski, V. Szarga and S. Sroka and they all had their names engraved on it. The statue of "St. John the Baptist", the patron saint of the church, was donated by Jan Vioncek and Jan Szczurek. The "Way of the Cross" stations and statues were donated by the parishioners.

There have been many priests that have served our parish. Some stayed while others went back to their homeland of Poland. Serving us through the years were Fathers: Kulawy, Dyminski, Raczasek, Staxczkiewicz, Holik, Herrold, Kaluzny, Rygusiak, Przysienziak, Lenczkowski, Baderski, Nagangust, Purcell, Rosiecki, Leszczyski, Croteau, Zenko, O'Neill, Hickey, Malok, Rataj, and now we have Father Sienko.

At one time we had formed the "Catholic Women's League" in our parish, and we put on teas and suppers to raise money for our needs, for the church. Later this club was disbanded, as our pastor thought it would be better to have our own organization. The "Altar Society" was formed and meetings were held in the Polska Hall across the road from the church. We put on suppers, catered to weddings, and held picnics to raise money for our needs in the parish. We have recently put down a rug in the church and had a new foundation put under the church, as the old one was crumbling. Many of the old timers and pioneers that started the Polska Parish are gone, but their memory lives on, as we built a monument in their memory. We have also completely refenced the cemetery grounds and built new gates. We are all proud to say that our parish is debt free, as the new foundation in 1982 cost us \$20,000. We would like to thank all parishioners, former and present and friends for the help and donations.



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church at Polska.

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church — Haight

The first settlers that came to what was known as the Beaver Lake district were mostly Ukrainian Catholics and Polish people who spoke Ukrainian. The

nearest churches were located at Skaro, forty miles away, and at Krakow, a distance of twenty miles. The Roman Catholic bishop of Edmonton appealed to Rome and Ukraine for a Ukrainian Basilian priest. The unmarried priests could more readily travel through the difficult bushland to serve the people.

The Basilians and Ukrainian Sisters arrived in Edmonton in 1902 and served the area from churches which were built in Mundare in 1903 and Borschiw in 1905.

In 1915 a Roman Catholic church was built in Mundare which also served the Polish families in the Beaver Lake district. By 1924 there were over twenty Polish families who felt they could support a small church in their midst. John Kolodychuk donated the land and with donations and volunteer labor the church was built. Kazemier Kolodychuk was the carpenter. It was named St. Anthony's. Father Aloysy was the first pastor and the first High Mass was celebrated on May 21, 1925, on the Feast of Ascension. Father Aloysy served the parish for four years. The last three pastors that served St. Anthony's were Father Adam Przysienziak, Father Kaluzny, and Father Joe Leszczynski. The last regular monthly service was held in December 1970. Now the pastor from Mundare comes once a year during the summer to say mass followed by prayers in the cemetery. The cemetery is still used for burials.

St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church compiled from church records by Mrs. Anne Mielimaka

The twentieth century was but a year old when a group of Catholic settlers were homesteading south of the present village of Holden. What is today rolling acres of rich wheat land, was then a challenging

wilderness, but the spirit of the pioneers was indomitable; they built homes there, and amongst themselves a warm bond of friendship was cemented in their common faith.

The Catholic population came under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Oblate Fathers who moved around among the far flung missions. They offered mass in private homes. Reverend Father Bellevaire celebrated the first mass in the Holden area, and rotated amongst the homes of Mr. and Mrs. James Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. John Mohs, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Finn. The sewing machine used for an altar was quite a contrast to the marble altars left behind in Europe; but the mass was the same, and the fellowship was warm.

Mass in the early days was irregular until Father Kulaway made arrangements to use the Vermillion Valley School for services. In the 1920's mass was celebrated once a month, in the 1930's twice a month, and in the late 1940's weekly. Some of the priests who served in the early days were Fathers Currie, Morrison, Roland, Koolin, Rooney, O'Sullivan and Kochia.

The school got too small for the increasing number of Catholics so the first St. Gregory's Church was built. In 1925 with the help of Father Quirk, they



Roman Catholic congregation met at Vermillion Valley School for mass.



The old St. Gregory's church in Holden.

started with a \$300.00 grant from the church extension fund. Some donations in the form of lumber, nails and hours of labour were cheerfully given, as very little cash was available. In time fund raising efforts got under way: while the men were busy with nails and materials, the ladies were equally involved with needles and thread, crochet hooks and recipes. The parish was soon putting on bake sales, raffles, bazaars, teas, and of course bingo games.

Pews were made by Bill Malowka and John Kwasney. The head carpenter for the church was Karl Kolodychuk. Father Quirk bought the bell for \$500.00, and it was named St. Theresa. The total cost of the church was around \$1500.00.

Father Nelligan (later Bishop Nelligan) celebrated the first mass at Christmas. The church was opened and blessed by Archbishop O'Leary in the spring of 1926. Holden later became a mission of Tofield. This building also served the needs of the Ukrainian Catholics who used it once a month for mass, and in addition, marriages and funerals. Father Zydan and other Basilian Fathers used it until 1943 when they built their own, the Holy Ghost Greek Catholic Church.



New St. Gregory's church and rectory.

An expanding population in the 50's resulted in a building boom in the West, and through the leadership of Father Purcell, a new much larger church was erected. Donations of money, labour and materials flowed in. The Ladies' Aid went to work with a new zest putting on the usual functions to serve this purpose. A large sum of money was raised by the building committee composed of Bert Appleby, Joe Chamulke, Peter Mielimaka, Steve Kondrat, Jack McGillis and John Thieme. Perhaps the most novel fund raising activity was that organized by Father Joe Leszczynski and Dr. Calo. Under the leadership of Dr. Calo, Peter Mielimaka and Joe Chamulke, a carol singing group was formed which brought the

Yuletide message from home to home where they were cordially welcomed with Christmas fare and donations of money which amounted to \$4000.00. Donors of church furniture contributed over \$2,000.00 in gifts. Protestants and Ukrainian friends volunteered their help to build the church. John Laskosky was the main carpenter.

In 1959 the new St. Gregory's Catholic Church was officially opened and blessed by Archbishop Jordan.

In 1961 St. Gregory's Church became a parish which included St. John the Baptist of Polska; and St. Mary's of Bruce as missions. Then in 1972 St. Mary Vianny, Ryley, was added to the parish. At this time there were no living accommodations for the pastor who shared the rectory at Tofield with the priest there. It was decided to build a rectory in Holden. The cost of this was shared with the missions on a per capita basis. The building was started in 1964 and was completed in May 1965, and Father Adam Prozy siezniak moved in. We are indebted to Father Adam for planning the adjoining rectory, as this assures the parish of a permanent priest and his services. The rectory serves the dual purpose of housing the sisters when they teach catechism in the summer, instead of staying at different homes in the district.



Catechism class at St. Gregory's.

Again a large debt was added to the first one, but experienced committees put their efforts into fund raising, one of the bigger projects, a Queen Carnival. By the mid seventies both the church and the rectory were paid for. In 1975 St. Gregory's Parish celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its foundation with Archbishop J. N. MacNeil present.

Priests of the Church

Among other priests who followed Father Quirk were:

Fathers R. O'Neil and W. MacLeod. The Redemptorist Fathers from 1930 to 1938 were Fathers B. Malone, M. Scollan, C. Moreau, C. McElligott, J. Naphin, and G. O'Donnell. Father N. Smeltzer came in 1938, and remained until 1945; Father Gorman spent three years in two periods. Father Doyle came in 1948, and late that year Father Purcell arrived on his first assignment. He was assisted by Father Van Acht on week ends for a year, and in 1955 a full time assistant, Father P. McCorkell served. Father Crough also assisted on weekends for a year, and Father Joe Leszczynski came in 1958 to help the Parish of Tofield and missions. Father J. Novakowski and McCarty also assisted. Father Ted Rataj came in 1968, and remained until our present parish priest, Father Jan Sienko arrived in 1976.

Organizations

A Catholic Woman's League was started in 1926 with Mrs. Harry Appleby as first president, Mrs. Connolly as secretary, and Pearl Crimmin as first treasurer. Later, as it was hard to find a secretary to do the necessary correspondence, the C.W.L. changed to a Ladies' Aid some time in the forties, and it was 1976 before they again became a Catholic Woman's League. At this time Anne Scherger was president, and Anne Mielimaka secretary-treasurer.

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Borschiw

by John Bilyk

One of the first Ukrainian parishes in Canada is St. John the Baptist, at Borschiw, Alberta. The location of this parish SE 10-51-16, the municipal district No. 9, the county of Beaver. It was organized in 1903 by Father Platonid Filas, OSBM. The founders were the following pioneers: James Bartman, Paul Deputan, John Kalynchuk, J. Petryga, Mike Kereluk, John Slywka, Bill Pochynok, S. Osadchuk, John Rurka, T. Pidoborozney, M. Korpan and Vlas Powley.



First Borschiw Church built in 1905.

By the year 1903, the people who settled the Borschiw area were almost all Ukrainian Catholics having arrived from Western Galicia. This area is called "Borschiw" because the people came from that district of Western Galicia.

There arose the need of a church and a cemetery. About forty farmers of the area gathered together and placed in the hands of Father P. Filas, \$10.00. They then selected from among themselves Theodore Kereluk and John Kalynchuk, giving them the \$10.00, and sent them to Edmonton to register the forty acre land on which the present church and cemetery stand. In 1903, Father P. Filas, blessed the ground of the present cemetery.

Early in 1905 and during winter, sleds were gathered from the area farmers and sent to Beaver Hill for lumber. Then the construction of the church started. The first carpenter was Stephen Hayduk who did not finish it. Stephen Gara continued the work. However, he did not finish it and for that reason Demetro Malowany a carpenter from Holden, Alberta was hired to finish the construction of the church. The cost of the construction of the first church was \$1,500.00.



Borschiw Hall.

The Basilian Fathers began coming to have divine services, but infrequently because there were only three of them for all of Canada. Vlas Powley, before his death in 1910, donated \$55.00 towards obtaining a bell for the church. His donation and the donations of other parishioners enabled the parish to obtain bells for the church.

In the course of time the parish prospered. As the various parish organizations became more active, the need arose for the community hall. Father A. Truch, OSBM, and Father Mark Romanowich, OSBM, in 1934 initiated the idea of constructing a hall. At a meeting of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood held in the home of John Hrabec Sr. in 1934, the matter of the parish hall was raised. The hall building commit-

tee was formed and consisted of the following people: M. Hrabec, G. Miskey, N. Pooke, W. Rurka and M. Powley; and the latter was made the chairman of the committee. The name of the hall is: The Ukrainian Catholic Parish Hall under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel. The hall now stands on the same lot as the church. Over the years, it came to be used more and more.



Present Borschiw Church.

In 1938 a letter written to the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Borschiw from Mundare, Alberta, Father Mark Romanowich, OSBM, expresses his desire "that in the near future on the mount, where today stands your old wooden church, as witness of the hard times through which our first pioneers lived, would stand a new stone church, which would again be a witness, that the new generation on the Canadian soil is not spoiled, but itself values these religious treasures, which their fathers esteemed so greatly. So in 1939 the construction of the present church was started by Harry H. Holowaychuk at a cost of \$9,000.00. The building committee consisted of the following people: John Hrabec Sr. president; Bill J. Rurka, 1st vice-president; Peter Ewasuik, 2nd vice-president; and Harry Bilyk, secretary-treasurer. The present church was blessed in 1947 by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Neil Savaryn, OSBM, D.D. In 1950, the belfry was built that now stands at the entry to the churchyard.

With the Centennial of Canada in the year 1967 approaching, the sons and daughters of the founding pioneers of St. John the Baptist parish of Borschiw resolved to erect a suitable monument on the church grounds as a token of their gratitude and filial admiration. In 1966, the erected monument in honor of the Ukrainian pioneers of St. John the Baptist parish was blessed by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Neil Savaryn, OSBM, D.D., Father Vital Pidskalny, OSBM,

the then superior of the Mundare monastery, Father Bohdan Lozynsky from Holden, Alberta, Father Boniface Malowany, OSBM, and the pastor at the time Father Flavian Kalba, OSBM, all officiated. This monument also commemorates the 75th anniversary of the arrival of Ukrainians to Canada, in 1891.

Some of the organizations that are or have been active in the parish:

1) The Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood — started in January, 1934.

2) The Apostleship of Prayer — started in November, 1948.

3) The Ukrainian Catholic Youth (U.C.Y.) — started in 1944.

4) The choir, Choir Directors and Cantors — First choir formed in 1934.

5) St. Barbara's Ladies Society (U.C.W.L.) — existed from the very early years of the parish.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI) had played a significant part in the life of the Borschiw parish. For example, in 1933 Sister Magdalene, SSMI, and Sister Juvenalia, SSMI, came for one month to teach religion and Ukrainian. Before the parish hall was built, the sisters endured the rigours of the life of the first pioneers. They used school shacks, granaries and private homes for living quarters. When the parish hall was finally built, they used it as their living quarters and also the place of teaching religion and Ukrainian.

Borschiw Parish celebrated Alberta's 75th anniversary in 1980.



Borschiw Ukrainian Catholic Youth 1955. Back Row: Lawrence Petryga, Andy Hrabec, Alex Shimko, Peter Shimko, John Polutranko, Joe Novak. Second Row: Lloyd Augustinovich, Mildred Stewart, Paul Shtokal, Barbara Hrabec, Walter Polutranko, Phyllis Semchyshen, Bill Shimko. Third Row: William Polutranko, Margaret Baraniuk, Elsie Ewasuik, Patricia Klymochko, Bob Kokotyn, Roseann Klymochko, Gerald Petryga, Marilyn Rurka, Nellie Dychkowski, Alfred Klymochko. Front Row: Peter Wozney, Emily Novak, Marshall Slywka, Rev. M. Gnesko, Ellen Bilyk, Mike D. Hrabec, Maryann Kokotyn.

St. Mary's Church — South Holden

by Nick Laskoski

Between the years 1901 to 1906 there were 22 Ukrainian families settled in and around Township 48, Range 16 about eight miles south of Holden.



St. Mary's Church — South Holden.

In 1907 they built a log church on a site on the northwest corner of S.W. 10-48-16. This 2 acre site, which also includes the cemetery was donated by John Bobyak.

The first members to start this project were Anton Tchir, Anton Komarnisky, Onisko Tkaczyk, Michael Tkaczyk, George Laskoski, Stephen Laskoski, Andrew Hladilo, Timko Malowany, Theodore Umrysh, John Bobyak, Dmetro Ozubko, Harry Pasteuzyk, Yakim Mulick, Luka Mulick, Sam Kondro and Dmetro Komarnisky.

In 1916 it was decided to build a bigger church. They engaged a carpenter to build and paint it, all for the sum of \$3,000.00, and this included material. This church still serves our parish.

The consecration of the church was performed by Bishop Butka in 1917. The first priests that served this parish were Father Hura, Father Didyk, Father Ladyka. Many others followed.

The parish celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 1976, with Bishop Dmetro Greschuk and five other priests present. It was a memorable occasion. Pres-



Catechism Class at St. Mary's Church — 1942. Back Row: Joe Danylak, Edward Ozubko, Alex Mychaleyko, Leo Laskoski, Harry Mydlak, Nick Shihinski, Emelia Shehinski, Mary Ozubko, Emily Pastuzyk, Tatianna (Florence) Mydlak, Natalie Pasnak, Marian Komarnisky and Mary Paskoski. Third Row: Nick and Mike Tkaczyk, John Ogonoski, Joe and Mike Malowany, John Komarnisky, Bessie Tkaczyk, Eleanor and Emily Pasnak, Olga Mulick, Emily Laskoski, Ann Paskoski, Lucy

Hladilo, Olga Paskoski. Second Row: Walter Komarnisky, ?, Myron and Benny Pasnak, Harry Kratko, Pauline and Tillie Malowany, Mary Kratko, Annie Oberg, Nora Mychaleyko, Nora Marko, Agnes Komarnisky. Front Row: Father Kominatsky, Bill Komarnisky, Maurice Ozubko, Lawrence Tomasheski, Andrew and Peter Tkaczyk, Marge Komarnisky, Elizabeth Laskoski, Stella and Elsie Paskoski, Father Sawchuk, and Lawrence Pastuzyk.



St. Mary's 60th Anniversary. Father Kratko, Bishop Greschuk, Father Lozynsky, ?.

ently we have approximately forty-five members in the parish, and one hundred and thirty-seven graves in the cemetery.



Blessing the banners in memory of Harry Christian, in St. Mary's Church, 1983.

Salem United Church

by Margaret and Ross Zwierschke

This is a story of people who have left a history of their lives that is alive and well to this day.

In the year of 1893-94 German families living in Norka, Russia left for the U.S.A. From there they moved to Stony Plain, Alberta. In 1899 more families joined them. In 1900-01 some moved to Martins area northeast of Holden.

These families included George Giebelhaus and

his two sons, Adam and John G., Philip Albrecht and family, Henry Giebelhaus and family, John Giebelhaus and family, and another Albrecht family who did not stay. Many other families soon followed. An important part of the life of these people was to gather in their homes to study Scripture. It was from these gatherings came the nucleus of the Martins congregation.

A Dr. McQueen of the first Presbyterian Church in Edmonton arranged for a minister, Rev. Vetter to visit the German people in Stony Plain. in 1901 Rev. C. F. W. Grasser from the Josephburg Reformed Church visited the Martins people on a bi-monthly basis. In 1906 he dedicated the Salem Cemetery which had been donated by Adam Giebelhaus. Between the minister's visits meetings were held and a sermon read or preached by some capable member of the group. Children were taught from the Bible.

In February, 1910 the Salem congregation was officially formed.

When Rev. J. H. Buenzli was minister it was decided to build a church. Two acres of land were purchased. The church was to be 28' x 40' with a full



Salem United Church.

basement and a steeple. Skritsmeir and Jennings were contractors.

In July, 1917 the laying of the cornerstone took place. Philip Albrecht and George Giebelhaus were deacons, Conrad Albrecht and Richard Kay were trustees. By this time the church had forty-four members.

The first confirmation class had six members. It was held on Palm Sunday, 1918. The first marriage held was between George Miller and Annie Giebelhaus and was held in June, 1922.

The church was named "Redeemers" church. Why it is now known as Salem is not known at this time.

In 1947-48 a parsonage and garage were built. Reverend Henry Roemer and his wife Lydia who had been married in 1945 moved in.

In the year of 1948 a Women's Guild came into being with "We are building" as their motto. They had eighteen members at the time.

In 1952-53 a new basement was put under the church and Sunday school rooms were added. Electricity was available so it was installed.

Fall chicken suppers were very popular events in those times.

Reverend Henry Roemer accepted a call to South Dakota in 1958.

Because the Dakota Synod of the Reformed Church of America could no longer supply ministers, it was proposed by Dr. S. Greene that Salem join a Canadian denomination, so they became a part of the United Church of Canada. A service of union making them part of the Vegreville Charge was held in November, 1961.

In August, 1967 Salem celebrated their 50th anniversary. Reverend C. Hickman, assisted by student minister Mervyn Penfound, were speakers, others were in attendance.

During the first 50 years, 30 weddings and 26 funerals were conducted in the church.

The church has had many changes throughout the years. Additions and memorials have been made. Records can be found in the Memorial Book in the church.

In July, 1977 the congregation celebrated their 60th anniversary with Reverend Henry Roemer of South Dakota as guest speaker. George G. Giebelhaus had a public address system installed in memory of his wife Mary. It was dedicated to the Glory of God at this service by Reverend Seal.



Salem United Church, 1917.



The 50th Anniversary (1917-1967) of Salem Church.

In 1980 the congregation decided to improve their cemetery. A grant was obtained from the County of Beaver for a centennial project. A chain link fence with gates and steel posts set in concrete were put across the front. Ditches were filled and gravelled. Concrete bases were installed for cairns. It was decided to use additional funds from the memorial fund to complete stone markers for the project. It should be completed this year.

Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Holy Ghost, Holden

by Wm. Ogrodnick

The Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Holy Ghost, was initially serviced by the order of the Basilian Fathers, who held church services in the private dwellings and in the church of the Latin Rite whenever it was available. In 1940 Fr. Zaton OSBM held an organizational meeting of the Ukrainian faithfuls at the residence of Stanley Woyciechowski and plans were formulated to build a church; sixteen faithfuls indicated their intentions to become parishioners and made financial contributions. In 1941, Fr. Kaminisky, OSBM, met with the new parishioners and made further plans and designs. Eventually, a basement was excavated by using horse-drawn fresno during February, 1944, and concrete was poured in



Blessing of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Holden. Phillip Mykytiuk (3rd from left) was parish cantor. Behind is Bill Shyba. The priest is Father Jerome, now a bishop in New Westminster, B.C.

July. The structure of the building was under the supervision of the contractor, Harry Losycky. The first memorable event was the blessing of the church cornerstone in 1944, by Fr. Kohut OSBM and Fr. Truch OSBM; mass service was celebrated in the basement auditorium where a congregation of approximately 800 worshippers, from near and far, gathered for this occasion. During 1945 a cemetery plot consisting of six acres was purchased, lying directly south of the village cemetery, and this was accomplished with the guidance of Fr. Horishny

OSBM, and the same year additional acreage was added to the church property with the assistance of Fr. Slota OSBM and Fr. Bilyk OSBM. The faithful of this parish are greatly indebted to the Basilian Fathers for the spiritual services rendered, and for all the assistance received in organizing the parish and building the church.



Blessing of the corner stone for the Holy Ghost Church — 1944.

With the arrival of the first secular priest, Fr. Baziuk in 1951, the present rectory was purchased from Maurice Ruskenveld. In February, Fr. Baziuk organized a Drama Club and many performances were displayed both in the Holden Community Hall and at the parishes in the vicinity. During 1953, the pews replaced the benches in the church, and the water system was installed in the rectory.

In 1957, Fr. Lozynsky became the parish priest, and was instrumental in organizing a church choir which sang at local church services, and gave outstanding performances, on several occasions, at community affairs and at the celebrations of the Ukrainian Day at Elk Island Park. The Drama Club continued its performances under the direction of Fr. Lozynsky. During 1959 the interior of the church was painted by Theodore Baron, a renowned artistic painter from Saskatoon. In 1960 the public address system and the electric chimes, intoning the bells of St. Peter's church in Rome, were installed. In 1963 the twenty-fifth anniversary of priesthood of Fr. Lozynsky was celebrated, commencing with the mass in the church and a banquet in the Holden Community Hall. During 1964 the rectory was rebuilt with an office space, two additional bedrooms, and a water system was installed in the church.

In 1969 Fr. Zahariasevych replaced Fr. Lozynsky, and continued to serve the four parishes consisting of Holden, Kopernick, Daysland, and South Holden. During 1975 the exterior of the church, including the dome, was painted, and the asphalt shingles replaced the cedar on the rectory, and the church roof was re-shingled during 1976.



Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Holy Ghost.

The parish has been most fortunate in having constant cantors in assisting with the church services during these years, namely, Phillip Matwiechuk 1941-46, John Hrabec 1947-54, and John Stechynsky from 1955 to the present.

Initial plans are being formulated to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of priesthood for the present parish priest, Fr. Zachariasevych at some date during the month of October, 1982.

Presently, efforts are being organized to erect a commemorative cairn at the church cemetery as a mark of tribute to the pioneers of this parish.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost is functioning as per Act of 1956 which provides for the Incorporation of the Parishes of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the Province of Alberta, whereas the members of the parish are members of the Catholic Church of the Ukrainian Rite in Canada in communion with the Holy See of Rome.

Zion Lutheran Church

In the early 1900's Swedish and Norwegian settlers moved to the district of Earling and Palmer. These pioneers saw the need for a church as well as schools. Services were held in homes, one being the sod house of Harold Bratrud. The Reverend C. S. Vang conducted the first service.

The people held a meeting in the Harold Bratrud home and organized a congregation in 1903. The name they adopted was Bethesda. Present at this meeting were Ole Mosby, Aslaug Smorlie, Harold Bratrud, Ludvig Hovland, Harold Stensrud, Pastor Vang, Andrew Knudson and Alex Hellekson.

Some time later, Salt Lake, Palmer and Likeness districts built schools where church services were held until a church could be built.



Zion Church used Palmer School for services.

The Ladies' Aid was also organized in 1903. Mrs. Harold Bratrud was president for many years, and Mrs. Ole Mosby secretary-treasurer. Other members were Mrs. Hans Sandvik, Mrs. Erlandson, Mrs. Andreas Evenson and Mrs. Aslaug Smorlie.

In 1915 a congregational meeting was held and it was decided to build a church on NW 11-48-17, the same site as the present church. The men on the building committee were Tom Bratrud, Gunder Gunderson, Hans Sandvik, Harold Stensrud, Ole Smorlie and Ole and Parelius Bjerkseth. The lumber came from Ryley, and cost \$1285.00, and a donation of \$35.00 was given by the lumber company.

The lumber was hauled to the church site by horse and wagon by members of the congregation. The men also assisted in the building of the structure,

with Mr. Molstad as the contractor and main carpenter.

At one time settlers from North Bawlf and South Holden attended the Zion Church — which had replaced the name Bethesda. It was in these earlier years that Bawlf, Skudesness and Hegre churches were built, so a parish was formed consisting of Zion, Bawlf, Skudesness and Hegre. This parish has worked through the years to support a pastor, as well as other missions of the church.

Pastor Sorlius organized a choir, which was later continued by Pastor Klyve. In 1930 George Mosby Sr. became choir conductor, a position which he held for many years.

A Luther League was formed by Pastor Braa in 1924. The Hope Luther League (as it was known) had many exchange programs with outside leagues which resulted in unforgettable fellowship with young people of other areas. There are many fond memories of Luther League programs and get togethers through sleigh rides, travelling suppers, and pie and basket socials.

In 1928 the twenty-fifth anniversary of church and Ladies' Aid were celebrated at the Lewis Hovland home.

In 1935 the church was destroyed by fire, after a Christmas concert had been held. With the insurance money and efforts of the Ladies' Aid it was possible to build a new church on the same site. The 1936 building committee was C. Lien, Joe Gunderson, L. J. Hovland, Tom Bratrud and Hans Huseby.

The estimated cost of the new church was



Zion Lutheran's first church with congregation 1915.

\$2000.00, and the committee contractor hired was to receive \$5.00 a day. Adolph Johnson and Thor were the contractors, with the men of the congregation assisting. The new church was dedicated in 1938 by Rev. Iver Iverson, with an all day service in the Norwegian language.



Ladies Aid at Mrs. Tom Bratrud's. Back Row: Violet Hellekson, Carrie and Annie Bratrud, Freda Dorin, ?, Connie Barlow (teacher), Selma and Thelma Bratrud. Front Row: Shirley and Ruth Bratrud holding Ronnie, Mrs. Forre, Mrs. Meadahl, Julia Johnson.

The congregations of the parish had decreased in membership, so in 1965 Sion and Skudesness began to hold alternate services and also joined Sunday Schools. It was also in this year the name of Sion Norwegian Lutheran Church of Earling, was changed to the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ryley-South.



Zion Church built in 1936.

The congregation held their seventieth anniversary celebration in 1973. The pioneer church families who started the congregation are now being replaced by fourth and fifth generation members.

The Ladies' Aid of 1903 continues to function, but is now known as the Lutheran Church Women, or the L.C.W. there are now thirteen members meeting regularly, once a month.

There have been many baptisms, confirmations and weddings during the past seventy-nine years of the church's history. The eighty year celebration is being planned for 1983.

We have been told that land for the cemetery was donated by Ole Bjerkseth in 1904. Apparently, Betsy Stensrud, who died from smallpox was one of the first to be laid to rest in the New Community Cemetery. Many of the pioneers are buried there. In the later years the cemetery lacked care, but recently, with the aid of government grant, concerned people of the area have been able to make renovations, and improve its appearance. The cemetery adjoining the church has the third generation of the Helleksens as a cemetery keeper.

Pastors over the years were: 1903 — C. E. Vang, 1904 — Conrad Halvorson, 1906 — Olaf Sorus, 1908 — Sivert Klyve, 1920 — Knudson, 1922 — Nels Braa, 1927 — Ole Falkeid, 1932 — Peter Lerseth, 1939 — A. K. Odland, 1947 — J. S. Stolee, 1957 — served by pastors from C.L.B.I. and C.L.C., 1958 — A. Tysseland, 1964 — Palmer Olson, 1969 — Bruce Harshberger, 1971 — Asgier Ingibergsson and at present Lee Woolery.

Most of our pioneers sleep in the church cemetery. We are grateful to all who endured and worked to build this house of worship.

A Tribute to Our Little Church

There's a little church that nestles
With its doorway facing West
And it overlooks the dearest spot
Where our many loved ones rest;
The hands that framed and built it
Now sleep beneath the sod,
But to us who know its story,
'Tis a treasured house of God;
It has seen our babies christened,
And our sons and daughters wed,
It has heard our anguished weeping
When we parted from our dead.
Through all our lives we'll love it
In our hearts no spot can be
So blessed or as holy,
To many such as we.

Homes of Yesteryear

The Old Home Place

After many years I visited the Old Home Place
Thoughts as a small child, fond memories couldn't
erase,

In my mind's eye I still see my parents' face.

The trees have grown though not so tall
Mother planted them when they were small,
Now you'd barely know anyone cared at all.

There's paper and refuse on the floor
A broken step nearly closes off the door,
Where friends once visited by the score.

The floor's fallen in, the roof as well
What stories this old house could tell,
I see where the upstairs door has fell!

I couldn't find where we used to play
With our rocking chair, tin pail and hay,
That was long ago, or was it yesterday?

Going to the car just to reminisce,
They worked so hard they did their best,
And now are rewarded to Eternal rest!

The weeds in the driveway almost waist high
A hot, dry wind blew through the sky,
The shambles there made we want to cry!

Turning on the ignition I hated to start
Leaving the old home place with a heavy heart,
After this last look forever to part!

(Author Unknown)



Home of George Laskosky (1904). Charlie Brisbin, Mrs. Laskosky, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tkaczyk and baby.



George Story's first home.



Onisko Tkaczyk house built in 1915.



Early home of J. L. Ritland.



George Hoveland's homestead shack.



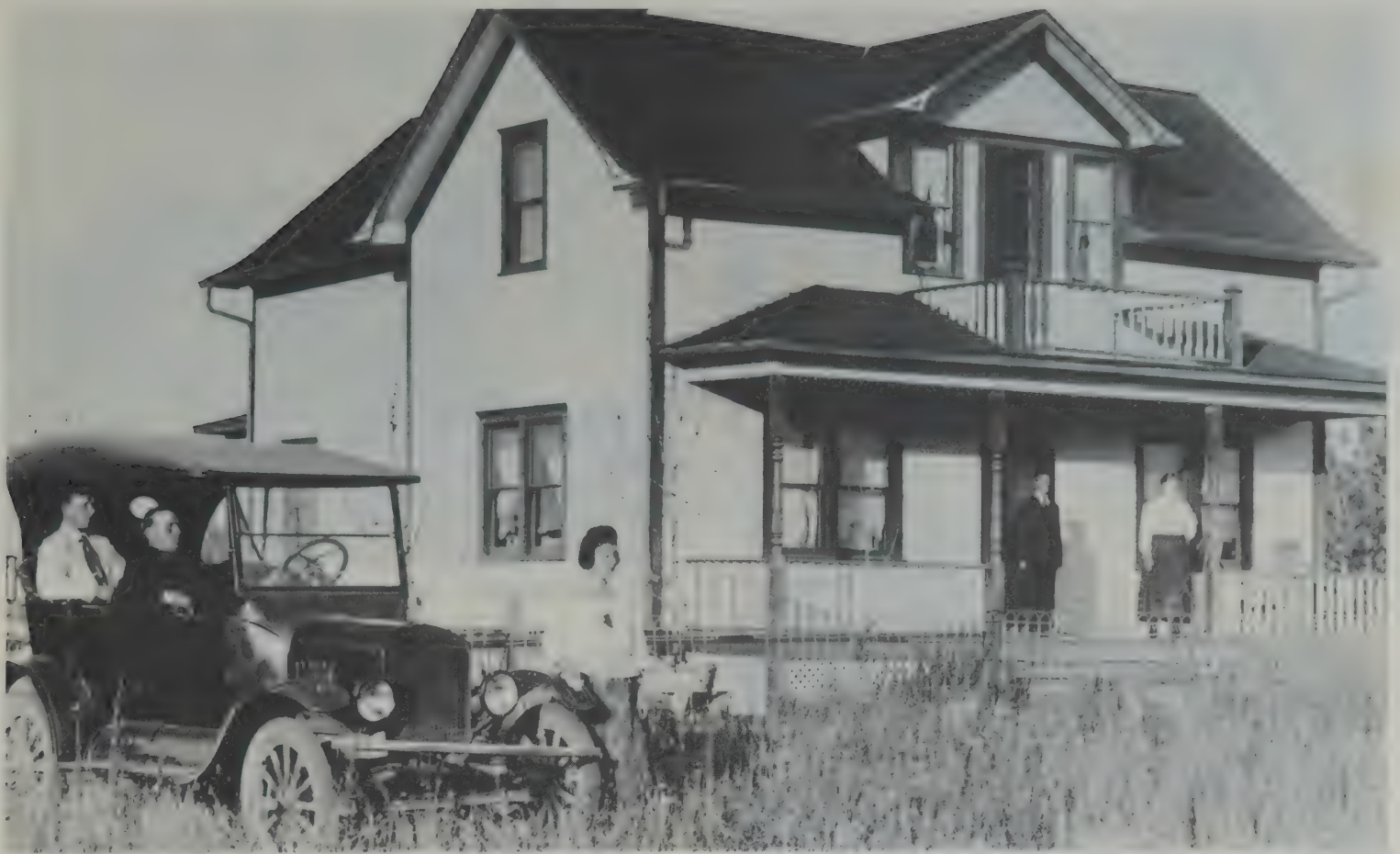
Adam and Eva Dorin's house in Holden (burnt down in 1940).



Bernt Chetney's first home in Canada in 1907.



Hans Huseby house in 1916, Hans and carpenter standing.



John Pastuzyk home with 1920 Ford Touring car.



Ole Chetney farmyard 1917-18.



C.P.R. house (1924), home of John and Euphemia Ozubko and their ten children.



Metro and Nancy Ozubko's home.



Neal Crimmin home built in 1924.



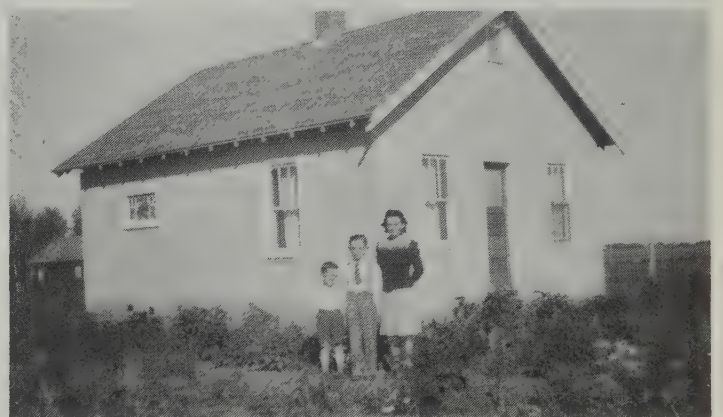
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hovland built in 1925.



George Christian house in 1928.



John Ozubko family home.



John Faryna home built in 1946. Orest, Russell and Annie in front of their new home.

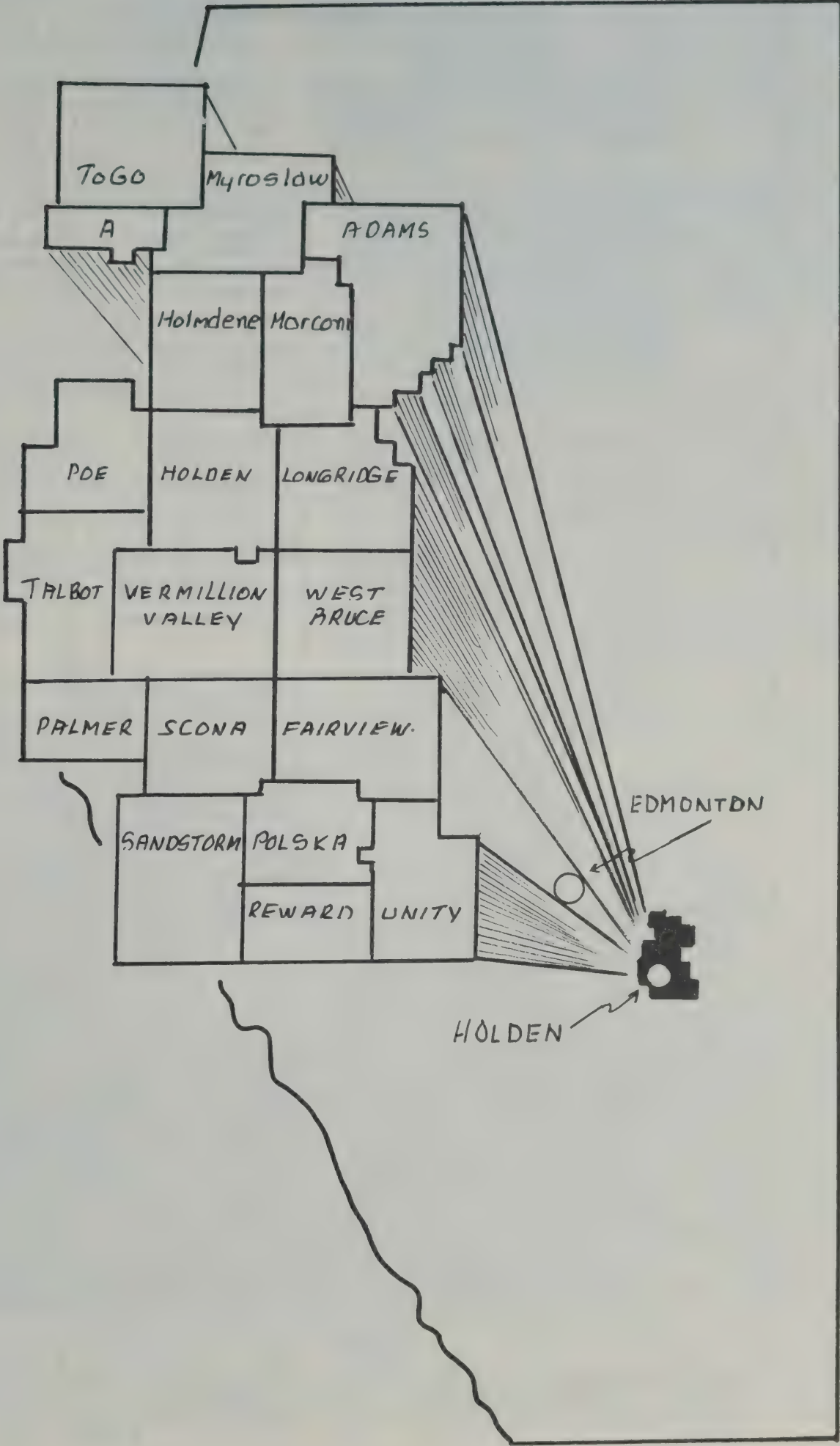


Mr. and Mrs. Karl Miller's home in 1927.



Joe Kassen's home near Holden built in 1920.

Schools



	M. FISCHER Paul Puk	MARIA McLEOD N. Baydala Nestor Baydala N. Baydala	CHAS. ANDERS Nick Baydala N. Baydala	HENRY WALKER R. MILLER G. MILLER John Giebelhaus CONRAD GIEBELHAUS John Giebelhaus	EMMELIENE BELLROSE A. Gienger J. Floig H. Bauer	J. BOWLAND O. Gienger A. Harter
33	JOHN G GIEBELHAUS John D Giebelhaus	MARIA McLEOD P. Albrecht D. Giebelhaus	34 CHAS. ANDERSON H. Giebelhaus Emma Collins H. Giebelhaus	35 EMMA COLLINS Geo. J. Giebelhaus Wallace Giebelhaus	A. SPENCE A. Gienger J. Floig H. Bauer	36 A. SPENCE Jr H. J. ROWLAND A. Gienger J. Floig H. Bauer
	AUGUSTINE L WILSON John G Giebelhaus John D Giebelhaus	C. BLOOM John G Giebelhaus Dan Giebelhaus	C. BLOOM J. MAST John D Giebelhaus	GEO. ALBRECHT → P. Rurka → A. Rurka → Elmer Schultz →	WALKER Geo. P Albrecht ALBERT Ergezinger	RANCH ZUK Mike Bzowy
28	J.J. MILLER N. Griffen Carl Klammer Clarence Klammer	OLLIE H. RONNIE S. Pochynok Dan Giebelhaus	27 C. ALBRECHT R. Schultz E. Schultz	← 26 H. WEITZEL Geo. P. Albrecht P. Giebelhaus	WALKER Geo. P. ALBRECHT Albert Ergezinger	25 RANCH ZUK Mike Bzowy
	N. GRIFFEN Carl Klammer Clarence Klammer	D. H. RONNIE S. Pochynok Clarence Klammer	JOHN JACOBSON Robert Schultz	E. MURRAY → Bruno Kempin →	C. COLLINS A. Brige E. Brige D. Fried	L. GIROUX J. Albrecht
21	ERWIN ERHARDT Mike Chermshinski Dan Giebelhaus	PETER P KJOSNESS E. Schultz	22 INGEBRIT KJOSNESS R. Schultz	● Salem United 23 GOODALL Christianson John Job Robert Schultz	AMBROISE SURPRENANT ← ←	24 L. GIROUX Emil Brige Dennis Fried.
	N. BELLROSE L. TREMBLEY A. Sydor Ray Puk	P. R. KJOSNESS → J. F. Eberhart → Ezra E → Eberhart.	●	HENRY GIEBELHAUS Con. Trout Les. Giebelhaus	ADAM GIEBELHAUS → Chris. Giebelhaus → Jim Giebelhaus →	● Cemetery
16	W. BELLROSE Alex Sydor John Sydor Ray Puk	PETER R KJOSNESS → John H Giebelhaus → John Job. Les. H. Komarnisky Giebelhaus	15	CARL NORDSTROM J. H. Giebelhaus John Rurka	14 JOHN GIEBELHAUS Conrad Giebelhaus Wallace Giebelhaus	13 GEO. J. GIEBELHAUS ← Jim Giebelhaus
	HILMER NORDSTROM John Job Mike Komarnisky	CHAS MICHEL ELZEAR PAGE J. A. Giebelhaus R. E. Giebelhaus	PHILIP ALBRECHT Adam Albrecht	PHILIP ALBRECHT →	Adm Albrecht	JOHN. G GIEBELHAUS Geo. J. Giebelhaus
9	AUGUST MILLER J. A. Giebelhaus H. Giebelhaus R. Ruskenvel D. Giebelhaus	ELZEAR PAGE J. A. Giebelhaus R. E. Giebelhaus	10	HOLLAND-ROSS Adolph Nordstrom Walter Nordstrom C. zwierschke	11 JOHN GIEBELHAUS Conrad Giebelhaus Wallace Giebelhaus	12 RE. KJOSNESS H. Field. S. Field.
	H.W. GROSAND John Pipke John Rurka	STORLEE → R. Kiist →	● Cemetery	C. MICHEL W. Gater → C. Trout → Les. → Giebelhaus	N. LAURION → → → →	M. MORLAND HARRY RONNIE ALLAN zwierschke
4	J. LANGUM Fred Grinde Art Grinde	STORLEE Emil Pipke R. Kiist	3	2 A. QUINTAL ← ← ←	N. LAURION Blackburn R. Kiist H. Kiist	P. Wangness M. Albrecht
			STORLEE Albert Pipke Otto Pipke Richard Pipke			HAMMER Francis Field.

ADAMS SCHOOL DIST No. 890

School
MARTINS. P.O. JAN. 1-1905
TO MAR. 31-1925

Adams School District #890

by Ezra E. Eberhart

This school district was established September 14, 1903, comprising of the following lands: sections 1 to 4, 9 to 16 and 21 to 28 in township 50 range 15. The senior trustee at the time was P. P. Kjosness of Vegreville, Alberta.

In 1903, \$800 was borrowed upon the security of the said district, for purchasing a school site, and building and furnishing a school house. The treasurer at the time was S. J. Langam of Holden. In 1913 another \$400 was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of improving and equipping the school house.

The period between 1924 and 1926 saw certain parcels of land withdrawn from the Adams School district and others added to the original as new school districts developed around the area.

In 1928 another \$2500 were borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building a new frame school house. The treasurer at the time was J. A. Giebelhaus of Holden, Alberta. About 1936 the school grounds were enlarged from .9 acres to 2.25 acres with a contribution of 1.35 acres of additional land by J. F. Eberhart to accommodate the sport of baseball.

In 1937, the Adams School District was included in Subdivision #4 of the Holden School Division #17. In 1954, sections 32 to 36 were transferred from the Ideal S.D. #3607 to the Adams S.D. #890. In 1956, the school building and site were sold and now comprise the Adams Community Center. In 1957 the Adams S.D. was incorporated into the County of Beaver #9.

It seems that from the very beginning of this school district, the welfare of others was at the forefront. The school was used for many functions besides education: electoral poll, community meetings and church services that branched out to form two church denominations, namely, Salem United Church and the Evangelical Church.

The school operated during the years when a teacher was permitted to keep a strap in her desk; not that it always stayed there. A strap that the teacher put to use at times was not because she loved to, but because she loved her students. Christmas concerts used to be a hilarious time, and a total community get-together, as were the annual school picnics at the end of the school term.

The school had many a teacher, so here goes, possibly not in the right rotation and possibly not all listed, but to the best of our knowledge they were;



Adams School — 1908. Front Row: Adam Albrecht (standing), Conrad Weitzel, John Giebelhaus (Black Con), George Albrecht (Big George), John Giebelhaus (Tiny), George Albrecht (Chevy Geo.), George J. Giebelhaus, Peter Wyllie, Herman Nordstrom, Lester Nordstrom. Second Row: Lizzy Albrecht (Adam's twin sister), Kathy Giebelhaus, Marguarite Giebelhaus, Alice Albrecht (Zacharuk), Ethel Nordstrom, Elizabeth Giebelhaus, Emma Giebelhaus. Third Row: Elizabeth Albrecht, Kathy Weitzel (Quinn), John Giebelhaus (Big John), Emma Weitzel (Nordstrom), Teacher, Elna Christensen (Parsons), Harriet Langham, John Albrecht, Jenny Nordstrom.



Back Row: Adam J., Henry A., Henry B. and Christine A. Giebelhaus, Clara Nordstrom, Hester Miller. Centre Row: Christine C. Giebelhaus, Lydia Miller, Margaret J. Giebelhaus, Emma, Katie and Lily Albrecht, Charlie Blum, Philip Albrecht. Front Row: ?, Minnie and Clara Giebelhaus, Edna Kjosness, Lizzie Giebelhaus.

Miss Kirkwood, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Lang, Miss Christensen, Mr. Clench, Mr. Goddard, Miss Goodall, Mr. Day, Mrs. Collins, Miss Woods, Miss Killoran, Mr. Lawton, Mrs. Austin, Miss Hilland, Miss Langham, Mr. Rice, Miss McCue, Mr. Gymfye, Miss Fischer, Miss McAffery, Miss Mohr, Miss Dumphy, Miss Clark, Miss Kennedy, Miss Simonson, Miss McFarland, Mr. Brickman, Miss Heffran, Miss Kjosness, Miss Cole, Mr. Henley, Miss Westbrook, Miss Watson, Mr. Reid, Miss Appleby, Miss Johnson, Miss Glasener, Mrs. Bjornson, Mr. Laskoski, Mr. Campbell, Miss Hillerud, Mr. Burns, Miss Wass, Mrs. Telford and Miss Jacobson.



Front Row: Emma Albrecht, Clara Nordstrom, Marie Giebelhaus, Lydia Miller, (?), (?), Henry A. Giebelhaus, (?), Henry C. Giebelhaus. Centre Row: (?), Edna Kjosness, Clara, Elizabeth and Minnie Giebelhaus, (?), Walter Nordstrom, Conrad Giebelhaus, (?), Henry Wietzel, (?). Front Row: Christian Giebelhaus, (?), Grinde, Marie Albrecht, (?), (?), Marie (Molly) Kjosness, Pauline (?) Giebelhaus, Elizabeth Albrecht, (?), (?), Alton Kjosness, Arthur Grinde.

So now we are left with many memories of a past school era, with a Community Center still in good condition, mostly because of the sacrificial giving of a pioneer group, who saw the need of a community, and a dedication to their God and country. Again we are privileged to tilt our hats in respect to those who labored before us to build a community.

Fairview School District No. 1517

by Art Olson

The Fairview School was located S.E. of Holden or S.W. of Bruce on the S.E. ¼ 9-48-15-W4.

The district was originally settled mainly by Scandinavian settlers with a few English and German families. Some of the first settlers, coming just after the turn of the century, were Jim Sizer (1903), his parents Elam and Emma Sizer in 1904, along with the rest of the family comprised of three girls and three boys.

Other early settlers were M. Nohr, G. Holden, Chris, Andrew and George Olberg, W. Dorin, P. Drowney, C. Teet, Mangleman's, R. Webb and son Bob, A. Mosher, Bob Stafford, A. and C. Fredericks, I. Olson, W. Olson, Carl Olson, F. Lundbery, Carl Tinholm, F. Hogstead, D. Panas, and others. H. Bablitz, Carl and Chris Sorensen, Jens Christoffer-son, Nels Jensen, and J. Larsen arrived later.

A number of Polish and Ukrainian settlers came to the district, mainly from points farther north, between about 1920 to 1930. G. Trohimczuk, Timo Bros., M. Cwihula, G. Christian, T. Stefanizyn, J. Wandio, Kosiniskis, L. Maruseczka — whose parents were early settlers near Holden, S. Krasilchuk, A. Sobesky, Makohosky Bros., also A. Woida, and L. McNally came to the district during this time.

These early pioneers got their mail at the Scona Post Office which was located on the N.W. 12-48-16 seven miles south of Holden. The post mistress was Mrs. Anna Nelson (see Andrew and Anna Nelson History).



First Fairview School.

G HOLDEN	NOHR, M	M. NOHR	S. NOHR	MANGLERMAN	W. STAMBAUGH	I. BABLITZ	J. KOSINSKI	J. MUICK	C. MUELLER
P. Komarnisky	J. Stefanizyn	M. C. Wihula H. Christian	J. Stefanizyn	W. Dorin A. Festerfest	F. Steinwand	R. Foster	A. Waida J. Dawson	J. Bablitz	I. Bablitz
A. OLBERG P. Drowney Gaunt C. Sorensen A. Keith	18 C. OLBERG P. Drowney Gaunt C. Sorensen A. Keith	M. C. WIHULA H. Christian	17 G. CHRISTIAN H. Christian	C. PAUL C. Tinholm N. Jensen S. Christian	16 N. JENSEN S. Christian	R. WEBB Jr Liske	15 J. KOSINSKI A. Waida J. Dawson	H. BABLITZ J. Bablitz	14 H. OVENS C. Mueller
C. SORENSEN A. Keith	E. SIZER C. SIZER H. Sawers	A. SIZER M. Nutley	T. STEFANIZYN J. Stefanizyn	N. JENSEN S. Christian	N. JENSEN H. Lomness	B. STAFFORD W. Dorin E. Dorin V. Ozubko	F. LUNDBERG H. BABUTZ I. Bablitz	L. MARUSZECZKA	
C. OLSON C. Sizer H. Sawers	7 E. SIZER A. SIZER M. Nutley	8 G. TROHIMCZUK W. MARASYMCHUK	P. STEFANIZYN D. West	M. PFLUG A. Keith	9 W. DORIN H. Christian Fairview School	10 C. CARTER I. Bablitz	A. MOSHER	L. MARUSZECZKA	
W. OLSON A. OLSON R. Chetney D. Grinde	J. SIZER W. OLSON H. OLSON R. Chetney D. GRINDE	C. RUDE A. SOBESKY W. Dorin H. OLSON W. Marasymchuk	W. DORIN H. OLSON W. Marasymchuk	W. DORIN P. Stefanizyn D. West	R. WEBB H. ALBINSON G. OLBERG M. Ruskenveld J. Stokowski D. Villeneuve	G. OLBERG J. Kalita I. Bablitz	F. HOGSTED W. Kalita R. MEEKS G. D. Dawson	L. MARUSZECZKA	
I. OLSON J. Larson J. Hendel	6 R. SIZER H. OLSON R. Chetney D. Grinde	A. LARSON W. DORIN A. OLSON H. Gewrow R. Grinde	5 STUREK R. SIZER P. Stefanizyn D. West	G. OLBERG M. Ruskenveld J. Stokowski D. Villeneuve	4 R. WEBB H. ALBINSON G. OLBERG M. Ruskenveld J. Stokowski D. Villeneuve	J. KALITA	3 H. LAIRO A. Dochinak A. Winchura	2 E. McNALLY	
P. PALUCK F. PALUCK M. Danilak E. MazonKoski	J. MACKOWSKY J. Hendel	G. TROHIMEZUK R. A. Grinde	P. TIMO R. A. Grinde	P. TIMO H. Danilak J. Stefanizyn	M. MISYK D. Misyk	J. MARKO K. Kalita	H. FREDERICKS	S. KRASILCHUK	J. FIDYNA
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	G. TROHIMCZUK R. Grinde	D. PANAS J. Wandro A. Winchura	J. MISYK	N. KALITA P. KIZOK	A. FREDERICKS	J. FIDYNA	P. KRASILCHUK		

FAIRVIEW S.D. No. 1517

The Fairview School was built in 1908 and the first teacher was Mrs. Stafford.

The largest student attendance was forty-nine being taught by Mary Kawalilak, who taught in this school for three years and had grades one to ten. Her salary in 1931 was \$1,250.00 when she had grades nine and ten.



New Fairview School.

The original school was sold to Tony Rabby and was moved to half a mile west of the Viking campsite where it was made into a comfortable home.



Ellen, Mary and Ignatius Gaunt, Tegner Nohr, Peter Gaunt, Elvie Nohr, Dorin girl, Nina Nohr, Dorin girl.



Back Row: Catherine Trohimchuk, Zella Sizer, Rose Wandio, Steve Christian, Frances Hogstead, Dora Bablitz, Olga Wandio, Anne Hogstead, Billy Christian, Nick Cwihula, Myrtle Olberg, Mary Wandio. Centre Row: Paul Cwihula, Freddie Hogstead, Evelyn Bablitz, Jennie Hogstead, Eddie Stefanizyn, Metro and Annie Christian, Lily Hogstead, Joe Wandio, Harry and Maggie Christian, Irving Bablitz (in front). (Teacher: Harold Parsons)



Fairview Schoolchildren. Back Row: Bertha Holden, Rose Trohimchuk, Anna Dorin, Elvie Nohr. Second Row: Helen Trohimchuk, Esther Hogstead, Anne Trohimchuk, Mabel Hogstead. Third row: Ted Holden, Tellof Nohr, Emil Dorin, Allister Albinson, Louie Holden, Fred Panas. Front Row: Siegfried Nohr, Arthur Olson, John Panas, Gladys Sizer, Alice Olson, Tillie Dorin, Linnea Webb. Teacher: Miss Ellint.

In 1941 a nice new modern school was built with a full basement and furnace.

From then on attendance dropped each year so it was closed about 1950 with the remaining students being bussed to Holden and Bruce.

The school was then moved to the Gladstone district, then later to the village of Bawlf.

Haight School by Doris Ogrodnick ✓

Yes, there was school in Haight, but Haight School was a long time in coming. From the very outset children from the hamlet and surrounding area were accommodated at Thule and Togo schools. This created a hardship for many as the distance to walk or drive was between three and four miles. After the Social Credit government gained power and the Holden School Division came into being, the new trustees saw fit to set up a classroom in the Haight Hall to accommodate about thirty children in the radius of about two miles. This was in 1938. The following teachers served in this makeshift classroom: Miss Harriet Appleby 1937/39, Miss Nora Findlay 1939/40, Miss Marion Watson 1940/41, Mrs. Doris Ogrodnick 1946/48.



Haight School.



Haight School Children, 1940.

In 1948, due to the size and age of Thule School and the shift in school population, a brand new school went up in the hamlet of Haight. For the next six years classes were conducted in this facility by Mrs. Doris Ogrodnick. At the end of this time the school was closed, and moved away to Ryley to accommodate the new system of bussing pupils to the larger points.



Back Row: Ed Gara, Rennie Kozack, Rick Josey, Herb Wolinski, ? Rachael Kozack, Aldean Kolodychuk, Kathy Lucas. Middle Row: Ken Kolodychuk, Eddy Rudy, Andy Hrabec, Laverne Podoborozny, Doris Ogrodnick (teacher), ? Evelyn Pollock, Nick Gara, Gloria Kozack, Terry Kozack, Pat Klass, Phyllis Maniowski. Front Row: Maxine Kozack, Margaret Kozack, Gloria Suchy, Bernice Wolinski, Beverly Ogrodnick, Beverly Kozack, Ken Josey, Ronnie Maniowski, Jerry Rudy, Peter Kozack.

Memories of Haight School by Doris Ogrodnick

In 1946 I had bid “goodbye” to my teaching career and had launched on a new one — cleaning eggs, milking cows and tending our new baby daughter. In less than six months’ time, the superintendent and some trustees paid me a visit with the purpose of inviting me to conduct a classroom in the then aging Haight Hall. One or two more visits and they had me convinced that the hall was an ideal classroom and that thirty odd children needed an education. Well, spell “ideal” backwards and you’ll get some idea of the sense that statement made. “You could throw a cat out anywhere” was an understatement. One medium sized heater in the middle of the hall served to take the chill off the large room. When the pupils and I clustered around, it was a case of a well roasted face and a frozen back, so we kept turning ourselves like a roast on a spit. We could however find a cozy spot on the large balcony located above the main floor, where of course, all the heat escaped. Here we would read our literature stories and correct homework exercises and play games. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not complaining, for the place had its good points. The pupils were grand and did appreciate having a school near at hand and together we had great times putting on

Christmas concerts on its large stage. Having no school yard, much of our games and exercises were held indoors. Even Mother Nature in defiance dealt out two of the coldest winters in my memory.

Our new school, opened in 1948, was a beautiful modern structure consisting of a large classroom, a library, full basement and indoor plumbing. What luxury to us who were used to one room and a path. But things were still less than ideal, for the building was placed in the middle of a four acre plot of cultivated ground. On rainy days you can imagine the problem of getting thirty youngsters over the mud and into the school. One day the superintendent called when the floor was at its worst. I could tell by the look on his face that he wished the teacher shortage was over. The school board made several attempts to establish grass on the spot, but at the end of my six years tenure, I was still battling mud. Otherwise we all enjoyed this new facility. Besides a cozy convenient classroom it was a central meeting house for the community. It was six years of pleasant memories for me especially. Now when I meet with people who carried their buckets and books to Haight school, we always talk about the fun we had in the good old days.

Holden School District No. 1057 formerly known as Pleasant Ridge School District No. 1057

The Pleasant Ridge School District No. 1057 was comprised of sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36 Township 49, Range 16, West of the 4th; site SE 22-49-16.

The senior trustee was Albert Stewart. In 1904 they borrowed \$800.00 for building a schoolhouse, providing necessary furniture, sinking a well and fencing the school grounds (see Viola Good story). Albert Stewart now became treasurer.

In March, 1908, the Pleasant Ridge School District borrowed \$300.00 for the purpose of fencing the site, furnishing the school and digging a well.

In January, 1911, the school district changed its name to Holden School District No. 1057 and in June borrowed the sum of \$6500.00 for the purpose of building and equipping a solid two room brick school house. There was a full basement — half for a wood and coal furnace room and half for a playroom.

In June 1926 the following land was withdrawn: NE 36-49-16 and in June 1929 the district borrowed \$8000.00 for the purpose of adding one storey to the school building to provide for two more classrooms, installing a proper heating and ventilating system for the school, four caustic closets, (remember the “honey wagon”?), concrete floors in the basement of

C.P.R. 1901 Clarence Story Andrew Tchir Frank Bednarski Ed. Bednarski	C.P.R. 1901 Geo. Story Arne Grosland Fred Gordash W. Grosland D. Keith	A. GROS LAND 1903 Geo. Story J. Lupino	ANDREW OLSON 1902 Melvin Olson	C.P.R. 1901 Peter D. Foryno 1928 Jim Young	C.P.R. 1901 Paul Howrish H. Johnson G. Armstrong M. Roshko P. Jakobow S. Howrish	C. CARLSON 1903 P. Howrish	
33			34		35	36	
C.P.R. 1901 Alf Palmer C. Poliwada Ed. Bednarski	C.P.R. 1901 H. Christensen C. Christensen W. Grosland D. Keith	CHRIS GROS LAND 1903 P. Sloboda J. Lupino	J. STEWART 1907 J. LEE 1902 Gene Bell Fred Foryno ↔	C.P.R. 1901 P. Foryno 1928 P. Howrish	C.P.R. 1901 H. Johnson G. Armstrong M. Roshko P. Jakobow S. Howrish	A. SANDERSON Ray Babyn Michael Zowtuk	M. Zowtuk
E. ARNESON 1902 C. Christensen M. VanRuskenveld Hutterian Brethren	C.A. CHRISTENSEN 1904 Don Keith	C.P.R. 1901 P. Mykytiuk Wm. Shyba H. Shyba	C.P.R. 1901 Alf. Stewart P. Sloboda P. Mykytiuk Wm. Shyba H. Shyba	H.B. Co. 1895 Wm. Phillip O. VanRuskenveld S. Howrish	W.A. ROBERTSON 1902 C. Campbell 1904 J. Greatyszyn	C.P.R. 1901 M. Zowtuk	C.P.R. 1901 M. Zowtuk
28			27		26	25	
HANS J. CHRISTENSEN 1902 C. Christensen M. VanRuskenveld Hutterian Brethren	T. CHRISTENSEN 1903 R. Raeder R. Steinwand.	C.P.R. 1901 Olaf Chetney A. Chetney	C.P.R. 1901 M. Christensen M. VanRuskenveld Fred D. Foryno O. Madonese	H.B. Co. 1895 Wm. Phillip O. VanRuskenveld S. Howrish	H.B. Co. 1895 O. VanRuskenveld S. Howrish	C.P.R. 1901 Anna Woicichoski	C.P.R. 1901 Anna Woicichoski
C.P.R. 1901 C. Christensen M. VanRusken Hutterian Brethren	C.P.R. 1901 C. Christensen J. Sroka D.M. Ligord	C. BRISBIN 1904 O. Chetney A. Chetney	L. McCALL A. BRISBIN 1904 P. Sorenson E. Keith	C.P.R. 1901 Adam Dorin P.D. Foryno Jim Young	C.P.R. 1901 Adam Dorin Annie Komarnisky D. Zowtuk	Wm. LASKOSKI Joe Bolog S. Gabrysh K. Mueller	J. MISYK K. Mueller
R.R. Hwy							
R. SPIES A. Steinwand Raj. Steinwand							
21			22		23	24	
C.P.R. 1901 A. Steinwand	C.P.R. 1901 A. Steinwand.	H. WOLFE 1904 A. Sroka D. Ligord	A. STEWART E. Keith	C.P.R. 1901 Adam Dorin H. Giebelhaus J.B. Nelson	C.P.R. 1901 A. Dorin A. Komarnisky D. Zowtuk A. Komarnisky	Wm. LASKOSKI J. Bolog S. Gabrysh K. Mueller	J. KIHLEBERG 1904 J. Cadger J. Misyk K. Mueller
ALFRED PALMER 1902 J. Keith Eak. Foryno	Geo. STORY 1902 Orville Daily S. Jaber R. Potts.	C.P.R. 1901 F. Sheeves Mory Zawolek	E. Polowischuk H. Giebelhaus GEO. MARUSZESKA O. Koetke M. Zawolek	J.C. STEWART 1903 G.T.P. 1908	J.L. BEATON 1905 A. Appleby 1906 G.T.P. 1908 B. Budd.	C.P.R. 1901 A.K. James J. Keith N. Howrish C. Mathews W. Schuller C. Mathews	C.P.R. 1901 H. Howrish W. Schuller
16			15		14	13	
JOHN A. STORY 1902 A. Story Hutterian Brethren	M. DAILY 1902 S. Jaber R. Potts.	C.P.R. 1901 H. Story C.A. Story	C.P.R. 1901 John Story H. Story C.A. Story	A. Chomicki R. Mason S.T. KACZYK A. Johnson E. Wasiolek M. Mrysh A+B Fischbuch		C.P.R. 1901 P.J. Friend	C.P.R. 1901 N. Christofferson
C.P.R. 1901 A. Story Hutterian Brethren	C.P.R. 1901 A. Story Hutterian Brethren	POINT and McKLOSKEY B. Chetney H. Brekstad E. Brekstad	L. SCHAFER 1902 A. Gustavson 1903 E. DAILY 1905 A. Mielimaka	Wm. DANILOK R. LEMM 1919 (S.S. board) P.J. Friend.	H.W. ROSS Ed. Logan 1927 Elmer Logan 1933 (School land) P. Friend	J. ANDREWS 1902 G.O'Doherty Walker P. Friend	A. CHRISTOFFERSON 1902 N. Christofferson
9			10		11	12	
C.P.R. 1901 MRS. DAILY C. Story	C.P.R. 1901 Z. Spinks H. Story C. Story	H. BAUER 1902 E.D. ATKINS G. Spence R. Engman A. Schmidt	I. Burger 1902 L.A. Albee 1906 A. Schmidt	Ed. LOGAN S. Milimaka L. Milimaka J.R. Wilkinson	T. MILIMAKA 1927 J. Milimaka	W. DAILY 1909 Josie Mielimaka.	Wm. E. HAYES 1910 Ed. Bednarski

School ●

HOLDEN DIST. No. 1057

P. PETRYSCZN
1907
T. Milimaka
Joe Mielimaka



Holden School, grades 9, 10 and 11 in 1932. Back Row: Hans Christensen, Harold Mohs, Ted Appleby, Edgar Curtis, Neil Bosomworth, Gordon Moore, Alton Kjosness, Edward Stewart. Third Row: Mary Crimmin, Helen Gabrielson, Elsie Kennedy, Constance Bratrud, Katie Laskoski, Vera Olsen, Atlanta Logan, Christine Albrecht, Betty Roberts, Elinor Erickson. Paul Thomas (Principal). Second Row: Natalie Kuzyk, Anna Parsons, Pauline Wynnyk, Mary Woicichoski, Mary Mulick, Alice Deputan, Ethel Chetney, Olive Connolly. Front Row: Harry Micklich, Philip Connolly, Walter Dorin, Melvin Olson, Fred Skakum, Abner Logan.

the present building and four additional windows with transom lights above all windows. The treasurer at this time was A. G. Brown.

In 1932 the following land was added: NE 2-49-16 and in March of 1939, Holden School District was included in the newly formed Holden School Division No. 17. In December, 1954, the Holden School District No. 1057 was subdivided into Subdivision No. 4 of the Holden School Division No. 17. In 1956 approval was given to sell the old school barn situated on the school site. The Municipal District of Beaver No. 73 was formed into the County of Beaver #9 in January 1958 and the Holden School District was included in this county. (The accompanying diagram shows the progressive development of the present buildings on the school site.)

The accommodation in the brick school became inadequate and classes were held in the Home Economics and Industrial Arts building (the former boys' dormitory) and even in the basement of the school until the new junior high building was erected in 1946. It included a small gymnasium in the basement.

As schools in the surrounding districts closed, a four room high school, small library and small office were built in 1951. The swelling of the school population forced the split level addition in 1954. The building of a new elementary school and large gymnasium took place in 1956 and in 1965 a modern library and two additional classrooms were added. On the school grounds there are still three rural schools which were hauled in and used as classrooms.



Grades 7-8, 1949. ?, Joanne Kitt. Back Row: Amelia Mielimaka, Arthur Gibson, ?, ?, Bill Sawers, ?, Bill Giebelhaus. 2nd Row: Olga Sloboda, Eleanor Derdak, Sophie Pochynok, Eugenie Bilyk, ?, David Gibson, ?, Ernie Koetke, Albin Woicickowski, ?. 3rd Row: Elsie Faryna, Diana Beveridge, Joan Armstrong, Lila Skakum, Lena Umrysh, Betty Hurum, ?, Leona Shtokal. 4th Row: Orest Fedechko, ?, Marvin Tiedemann, Lawrence Komarnisky, Clare Brekstad, Ronnie Story, Charlie Gibson, Earl Giebelhaus.

The following is a list of the names of the teachers who taught in Holden School (our apologies if some are missed): Lottie Brisbin, Chas. Brisbin, Miss Hanna, Miss Short, Miss West, Miss Edgar, Max Beckwith, Miss McLean, Barbara Carlisle, Mr. Walsh, Miss Ellingson, H. R. Collver, A. A. Aldridge, Helen Forde, Ardena Baker, Miss Crow, Ken Tookey, Miss Gerry, Ronola MacPherson, J. Martin, E. M. Sanderson, S. R. English, W. T. Arthurs, Isabel Briggs, O. P. Thomas, J. A. Richardson, Claire Selkirk, Signe Aune, Olive Thrasher, W. A. Siebrasse, J. Chalmers, D. Cosstick, S. Olsenberg, Wm. Brushett, Earl Hardy, Mary Peake, Agnes Drozdowich, Elsie Rosen, Dorothy Armstrong, Edna Giebelhaus, E. Skenfield, Lorraine Magneson, G. Brimacombe, Andy Yuhem, Pearl Allan, H. Hutchinson, Yvonne Phipps, Helen Daley, Rita Gordey, Muriel Finseth, Joyce Bailey, Irene Bailey, Ila Moen, Alex Gordey, E. B. Parker-Norton, Lena Kachur, Olga Nay, Lars Olson, Muriel Barlow, Eleanor Good, Mike Fedoruk, Pearl Livingston, Noel Nicholl, Kathleen Lundgren, M. Bentley, Ralph Gorrie, Wm. Ogrodnick, Ena Driscoll, Betty Wiklun, Harriet Hviid, Ruth Torrie, Jane Madsen, Ina Dearing, Winnifred Beveridge, Margaret Schmalzbauer, M. Johnson, Audre Giebelhaus, Pearl Hladilo, Mary Laskoski, Evelyn Baergen, Lydia Thielman, Edna Torrie, R. H. Harris, G. R. Meal-ing, G. Lundblad, Margaret Moen, M. Hendrickson, Dorothy Barlow, Doris Ogrodnick, Kay Dowhaniuk, Elsie Hrabec, Eleanor Derdak, Jean Murray, F. Halaschuk, M. Hawrelak, Judith Sterns, Russell Slywka, Doris Ferguson, Mabel Vincitt, Winogene Carpenter, Victor Laskosky, Stella Soren-

son, Ethel Brown, Lorraine Zwierschke, Susan Hrabec, J. M. Finley, Pauline Holowachuk, Signe Clark, Wilbur Micklich, Grace Appleby, N. Rugland, Lloyd Sather, Mary Penner, C. Kolodychuk, Grace Hurum, Jean Downing, Oleh Shykora, G. D. McFarlane, Diane Budinski, Annie Bray, Stella Hnybida, Georgina Glascock, Ann Eglauer, Ed Wysocki, Mary Hula, Larry Benson, Ben Lutz, Margaret Robertson, Rhea Jeffrey, Henry Kornelsen, J Ann Kryzanowski, Betty Fraser, Janet Hoover, Thelma Derkatch, J. Lindberg, B. Randhawha, B. Arnett, S. Pannu, R. Pannu, R. Augustin, Frank Randall, Resar Gyani, Joe Fornal, S. Melezko, D. Boshman, J. Keats, J. Courchesni, Donald Adams, Joan Adams, Wm. Glover, Fred Nordstrom, C. A. Mathews; Leland Barr, Treva Rimney, Anne Appleby, Beatrice Fredericks, Dorothea Mathews, B. J. Hughes, E. Wiens, Mike Ronaghan, R. Lyslo, A. Vergette, Neil Hughes, Vivian Carlson, Sharon Howrish, B. McArthur, G. Oberg, T. Albrecht, E. Boettger, Arthur Micklich, B. Dunbar, W. Collinge, Ken Enander, C. McArthur, K. Trann, I. Heidebrecht, Blaine Greenwood, Francis Blue, C. Hastings, Doug Perras, L. Langner, Gunhild Berke, Deborah Lawson, Louise Lukawiecki, Marvin Tomashavsky, Margaret Hallett, John Emerson,

Mary Ann Sokolotoski, Susan Cooper, Dianne Beckman, Carol Klontz, Carol Kurash, Keith Robson, Derek Burden, Lyle Andrusky, Ray Vaudan, Eliz-



Holden Elementary 1936 or 1937. Back Row: Principal — Arkle Richardson. Teacher — Signe Aune, John Shehinski, Bryan Shieman, Gordon Newell, Jackie Thieme, Raymond Fleming, Steve Lupino, Bill Grycan, Fred Carter, Eddie Shanley, ? Shanley. Second Row: Clare Liden, David Faryna, Paul Grycan, Victor Laskoski, Mary Mielimaka, Irene Thieme, Annie Mielimaka, Mary Thompson, Emily Shanley, Dorothy Coates, Muriel Olsen, Laurretta Keith. Third Row: Joyce Newell, Clare O'Doherty, Dorothy Emond, Katie Mielimaka, Gladys Armstrong, Alice O'Doherty, Irene James, Noreen Fleming. Front Row: Michael O'Doherty, Albin Shanley, Alice Bell, Doris Saboe, Beatrice Cadger, Norman Thompson.



Holden High School, 1938. Can you find yourself? Mr. Siebrasse — Principal.

abeth Peterson, R. Fairweather, Lorna Brown, Lynne Hicks, Audrey Lampitt, Deborah Hrijyk, Cynthia Clarke, Mary MacKay, Steve Sorken, A. Morello, Wendy Burr, D. McKoen, L. Sutherland, Carmen McGregor.

Home Economics and Shop teachers: Isabelle Robinson, Sophonia Hannas, Jean Robertson, Ethel Brown, Sharon Kropielnicki, Harold Kassan, Earl Hardy and Victor Petruk.

School Inspectors: J. C. Buchart, J. Robinson, Mr. Williams, A. Doucette, J. H. McLean, E. M. Erickson, H. A. Pike, Marvin Bruce, Dr. Neil Gannon, Fred Reinholt.



Primary — 1936 or 1937. Back Row: (?), Fred Shieman, Ian Newell, Ellen Tiedemann, Jennie Faryna, Josie Shanley, Gloria Komarnisky, Henry Laskoski, Gerald Koetke. Middle Row: Albin Woicichoski, Clifford Coates, Clarence Olsen, Wilma Fleming, Mary Faryna, Cecil Tiedemann, (?), Mary Thieme. Front Row: Kelly Arneson, Margaret Emond, Margaret Sanderson, Helen Mielimaka, Joe Laskoski, Audre Liden, Viola Armstrong, Lawrence Tiedemann, Ludvig Shanley, Vernon Story, Glen Newell. Teacher — Olive Thrasher.



Holden High School Hockey Team about 1944. Back Row: Nestor Deputan, Mike Eleniak, Don Allan, Ron Story, Glen Olson, Angus Keith, Larry Plyshka, Garry Sorensen. Front Row: Bob Berg, Marshall Slywka, Albin Lukawiecki, Lars Olson (Teacher and Coach), Eugene Komarnisky, Gordon Story, Eugene Ewasiuk.



A Junior High basketball team in 1960 (?). Back Row: Robert Ruskenveld, Steven Jakubow, Dale Christianson, Oleh Shykora (coach), Terry Appleby, Arnold Auch, Kenny Hnybida, Doug Olsen. Front Row: Jim Romaniuk, Lawrence Novak, Marvin Karenko.



Holden School about 1946.



Mrs. Johnson's class: Leslie Brekstad, Diane Rurka, Patsy Goshko, Jean Hladilo, Elaine Cheremshynski, Marilyn Rurka, RoseAnn Klymochko, Iris Fleming, Jean Pon, Gail Allan, Kim Pon, Donna Tiedemann, Jerry Kushnerick. Middle Row: Mrs. Johnson, Margaret Komarnisky, Emily Umrysh, Emily Komarnisky, Elsie Jobber, Marshall Topilko, Gerald Jobber, Betty Michlich, Ella Steinwand, Marie MacGregor, Betty Lou Giebelhaus, Emily Ozubko. Front Row: (?), Bernie Marko, Martin Rurka, Myron Baziuk, Larry Hyshka, Ernest Woloshchuk, Douglas Hardy, Lawrence Kitt, Dale Foran.



Pleasant Ridge School, 1905. Teacher: Lottie Brisbin.



Holden School pupils about 1911. Back Row: Clara Johnson, Vera Bradley, Hilda Halsa, Miss Hannah (teacher). 5th Row: Hattie Story, Annie Mumford, Minnie Wolfe. 4th Row: Edna Daily, Betsy Johnson, Harry Philips, Albert Johnson, Agnes Wolfe. 3rd Row: Clifford Peterson, Mary Story, Berlietta Ritland, Agnes Olson. 2nd Row: Lloyd Andrews, Clarence Mumford, Bertha Dorin, Gladys Mumford, ?, Chrissie Mewhart, Nola Mewhart, ?, ?, Irvin Olson, Harold Story. Front Row: Otto Hurum, Orville Daily, Arnold Christianson, Abe Black, ?, ?, George Black, Barney Hurum, Lester Story.



First school named "Holden".



Senior room of Holden School in 1924. A. A. Aldridge — teacher and principal.



Junior room of Holden School in 1924. Judith Ellingson — teacher.



Holden School after second storey added.



Centre Back: Charles Brisbin — Principal of Holden School 1920.



Grades 1 to 4 Holden School — 1932. Ronola MacPherson — Teacher. Back Row: Norman Gorrie, Gordon Newell, Walter Cadger, Raymond Fleming, Paul Grycan, Dave Faryna, Jack Thieme, Lawrence Story, Arthur James, Muriel Olsen, Annie Skakum, Irene Thieme. Second Row: Merle Forsythe, Phyllis Emond, Vera Shanley, Marion Fleming, Myrtle Faryna, Rose Laskoski, Norma Thompson, Emily Korosil, Joy Korosil, Mary Thompson, (?), Mary Shanley. Third Row: Olive Armstrong, Lillian Bell, Maureen O'Doherty, (?), Beatrice Cadger, Emily Shanley, Dora Faryna, Dorothy Coates, Clare O'Doherty, Nellie Korosil. Fourth Row: Edward Armstrong, Brian Shie-man, Bill Campbell, Michael O'Doherty, Victor Laskoski, Ed-die Shanley, John Story, Steve Lupino.



David Cheremshynski, Alvin Hyshka, Ronnie Motkoski, Ron-nie Koetke, Victor Rurka, Lorne Sizer, Ernie Laskosky, Alan Tiedemann. Middle Row: Irene Bobyak, Carol Friend, Elaine Olson, Mrs. Hendrikson (Teacher) (?), Erica Weganast, Bar-bara Zadko. Front Row: Anne Appleby, Sharon Hardy, Vivian Ogradnick, Elsie Chmil, Marcia Bilyk, Maxine Hrabec, ?, Rachel Mahowich.



Grade 5, 1953. Back Row: Diane Osadchuk, Mary Slonapas, Erica Weganast, Frances Zigolyk, Greta Sorensen, Nadia Roshko, Evelyn Bespalko, Evelyn Cheremshynski, Susie Komarnisky, Elizabeth Umrysh, Teacher — Pearl Allan. Mid-dle Row: Carol Hurum, Doreen Steinwand, Joan Komarnisky, Irene Giebelhaus, Carol Olson, Eleanor Woloshchuk, Sylvia Hendel, Evelyn Szott, Irene Jobor, Rachel Mahowich. Front Row: Joe Bilyk, Benny Ogonoski, Gordon Chamulke, Julian Havres, Ronnie Giebelhaus, Barry and Duane Christianson, James Romaniuk, Alvin Hyshka.



Holden High School Staff 1951.



Peter Josey. Head Caretaker in the 1960's.



Holden School staff in the late 1950s. Back Row: Lorraine Zwierschke, Eleanor Derdak, Jean Murray, Russell Slywka, Michael Hawrylak, Victor Laskoski, Ralph Gorrie, Bill Ogradnick, Winifred Beveridge, Doris Ferguson, Mary Laskoski, Magda Hendrikson. Front Row: Lars Olson (Vice-Principal), Pearl Hladilo, Audre Giebelhaus, Grace Appleby, Mabel Vincett, Harriet Hviid, Pearl Allan, Susan Hrabec, Stella Sorensen, William Brushett (Principal).



Mildred Josey, Caretaker during the '60's.



Holden School Library with Pearl Allan (teacher-librarian), and some students in the 1970's.



Some teachers in 1942-43: Eleanor Madsen, Irene Bailey, Agnes Drozdowich, Mary Peake, Dorene Lyle (town office).

No. 26

TAX RECEIPT.

The School District of Pleasant Ridge

Received from Hanna Christensen the sum of 10.00 Dollars

being Taxes due on SW 1/4 Sec. 28 Tp. 49 Rge 16 west of the 4th Meridian.

Taxes current year, 1906 \$ 10.00

Arrears, \$ _____

Interest, \$ _____

Dated May 21 1906 Total Taxes, \$ 10.00

Albert J. Stewart Treasurer.

Early School tax receipt.



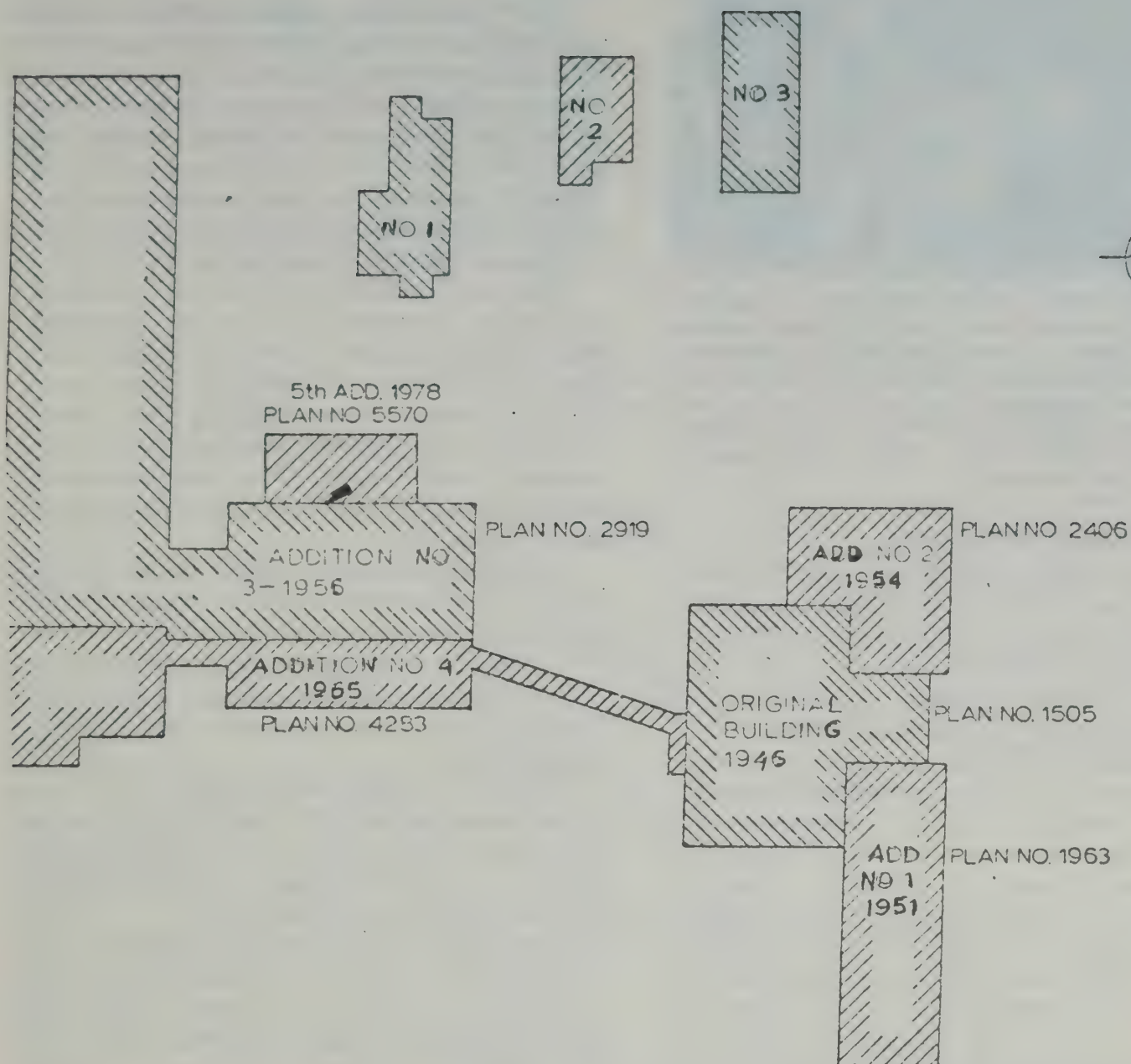
Graduating Class 1951: Tillie Trohimchuk, Shirley MacGregor, Norman Koetke, Kay Olson, Lorraine Giebelhaus.



Participants in retirement of Ellen Dorin, Doris Ogradnick, Pearl Allan at Holden School, 1976. Back Row: Oleh Shykora, Neil Gannon, Dick Morris, Dwayne Dychkowski, ?, ?. Front Row: Eugene Ewasiuk, Charlie Sears, George Pon, Ellen Dorin, Earl Hardy, Doris Ogradnick, Pearl Allan, Wm. Ogradnick.



Holden School, 1970.



HOLDEN SCHOOL DIST NO 1057				
HOLDEN ELEM & JR. & SR HIGH				
SCHOOL BUILDINGS BRANCH				
DATE	JUNE	DRWN	J L M ELP	SCALE 1"=40'
TITLE	SITE PLAN			CODE SHEET
				3502 1 OF 1

Plan of Holden School — 1945-1978.



Holden School Staff — 1977-78. Back Row: Charles Matthews, John Emerson, Robert Lyslo, Bill Glover, Leonard Langner, Lyle Andrusky, Derek Burden, Marvin Tomashavsky. 2nd Row: Sue Cooper, Grace Appleby, Arthur Micklich, Joe Fornal, Carman MacGregor, Audrey Pratt (library clerk), Carol Klontz. 3rd Row: Olive Good (secretary), Louise Lukawiecki, Mary Laskoski, Debby Lawson, Margaret Hallett, Beatrice Fredericks, Diane Beckman.

Holden School Dormitory

For high school students in most “country schools” in the Holden School Division, June 1940, was the final time they would hear their old school bell ringing. If they attended a “town school” they would have a greater selection of subjects and options, so a dormitory was opened in Holden.

Trustees made an agreement with T. A. Liden to rent the second floor of his store for \$12.00 a month. The job of renovating this part of the building into a dormitory was done by Tony and Harvey Gorrie. The west wing was divided into two rooms for the girls, with a clothes closet and washroom in the hallway. The east wing provided space for the pantry, kitchen and dining area, matron’s room (which was also used for Home Ec. classes), and boys’ room. Since this



Residents of Holden School Dormitory above Liden’s Store 1946.

room wasn’t large enough to accommodate all of them, arrangements were made with Mrs. R. Hagerud to have 5 boys stay at her home just west of the school.

In 1940, 24 students registered. Room and board was \$16.00 per month. Grocery money was limited so meals were simple. Our main menu consisted of macaroni, cheese and hamburger. Desserts weren’t served very often, especially when sugar rationing came into effect. The boys who stayed at Mrs. Hagerud’s dreaded their early morning walks for breakfast and their after supper jogs, but they never complained and knew better than to arrive late!

This new experience of living with strangers of different backgrounds, religions and nationalities took some adjusting to, but we soon realized that in any language the word for Holden water was the same — “awful”!, but when you had a weekly allowance of 25¢, pop was a rare treat, so you had no alternative than to shut your eyes and swallow a few drops of this salty, rust-colored liquid that Holden people called water.

Work schedules were made out so everyone shared in the household duties. This promoted cooperation and friendship which would never be forgotten. Failure to abide by the rules, which included “10:00 o’clock Lights Out”, meant referral to our principal, Mr. Brushett, but luckily, everyone chose to cooperate.

“Dorm” life wasn’t thrilling, but we always found something to do. We read, collected stamps, built a giant-sized jigsaw puzzle or practiced for the amateur programs which were very popular for those who were musically inclined.

The first matron was Maude Clydesdale, whose duties included cooking and supervising. For this seven-day-a-week job, she received \$60.00 a month. Katie Shehinski, Minnie Olsenberg, Bertha Nohr and Ruth Powell served as matrons in successive years.

In 1944, the price for room and board was raised to \$20.00 per month, with the School District paying an additional \$3.00 per student. Even this meant hardship for many families, so some students stayed with friends or relatives, others took up batching and still others stayed only during the winter months when it became too cold for them to walk to school from their farm homes.

In 1946, a boys’ dormitory was built on the school grounds. Enrolment dropped to 15 that same year and in 1947, with the introduction of privately operated school vans, enrolment in the dorm fell to just 5 students. This forced closure of the dormitory on December 1, 1947. This building was remodelled to serve as a shop classroom.

For the many students who remember calling the dorm "home", the reunion in 1984 will have a special significance.

Holmdene School District No. 3243

Holmdene School district was petitioned for formation of a public school district in 1915, and was to consist of sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28 and south halves of sections 26 and 27 in Township 50, Range 16.

The area of the proposed district was approximately 8000 acres of assessable land. With a population of forty-five the number of children between the

ages of five and sixteen years was seventeen, and the number below five years was ten. The number of actual residents who would be taxable in the district was nine.

The first school board members were A. E. Fiske, N. Micklich and S. Rurka. In 1916 they were given permission to borrow \$1,200.00 to buy the land and build the school and a small teacherage. The school was built on the S.E. 1/4 15-50-16 by John E. Roberts.

The school district was increased in size in 1919 by adding sections 1, 12, 13, 24, and south half 25-50-16. Then in 1926 the east half of these sections

HOLMDENE S.D. No. 3243 SCHOOL

Sec. parcel
N.W. - 16
O. DESJARLAIS
M. ROWLAND (S)
1902

S.E. - 16
J. CHALIFOUX (W)
J. Mc GILLIVRAY
1902

N.W. - 14
M. DELORINE 1901
M. Mc GILLIVRAY (E)

N.E. - 14
P. COURTEGEILLE
J. NIPISSING (E)
1901

N.E. - 10
N. Mc GILLIVRAY (E)

S.E. - 12
N. CHALIFOUX 1901
J. NIPISSING 1901 (E)

N.E. - 2
A. PICHE 1901
A. CAMPBELL (E)
1901

S.E. - 2
E. PATTERNAUDE
1901
A. HAMBLIN (S)
1901

S.W. - 4
P. DONALD 1902
F. DAGNEAUX
1902

28 R. WOLD 1902 M. BEJANSKI 1924 M. BONAS Wm. HRABEC	M. ATAMAUZUK 1904 W. ATTONANCHUK T. SHIMKO	27 C.P.R. P. CHEREMYSKY E. CHEREMYSKY	C.P.R.	H.B.Co. H. CHEREMYSKY P. CHEREMYSKY	26 H.B.Co. Mrs. T. CHORNEY	C.P.R. H. CEBRYK J. CEBRYK	25 C.P.R. P.N. PUK.
C.P.R. J. RURKA M. HRABEC M. LUDWIG	C.P.R. B. RURKA D. HRABEC	STEFAN RURKA 1903 S. RURKA B. RURKA D. HULTHULM	M. ROSCZKO 1903 A. OGRODNICK	C.P.R. A. OGRODNICK H. OGRODNICK	C.P.R. S. DEPUTAN E. DEPUTAN	J. HAMELIN D. SHTOKAL KOURANGEAU P. SHTOKAL	J. HAMELIN 1901 D. SHTOKAL E. SHTOKAL
C.P.R. D. HRABEC M. D. HRABEC M. LUDWIG	C.P.R. M. D. HRABEC M. LUDWIG	D. FARYNA 1903 J. KORPAN A. OGRODNICK G. PACTHELL	22 N. MYCHAJLYC 1903 N. MICHICH J. MICHICH	C.P.R. N. MICHICH J. MICHICH	23 C.P.R. P. SUCHY A.S. HULTHOLM P. SHTOKAL	M. Mc GILLIVRAY 1901 A. HULTHOLM D. HULTHOLM	24 T. BISHOP 1901 C. BIRD 1902 A. HULTHOLM D. HULTHOLM
GEO. MISKEY JOHN HRABEC L. DANIELS CB & BB PATCHELL	J. GIBBONS 1902 A. KOLYNOVICH EVANUE JR & CJ HUEHN	C.P.R. S. RURKA H. RURKA MICHICH	C.P.R. N. MICHICH J. MICHICH	R. MALCONE J. MICHICH	C.P.R. E.G. AMES A.S. HULTHOLM D. HULTHOLM	C.P.R.	C.P.R.
M. ROWLAND 1902 PETER BILYK	P. BILYK	C.P.R. ADAM DORIN W. DORIN Wm. ZOWTUK	15 C.P.R. ADAM DORIN F. HALIBUT	ADAM DORIN F. HALIBUT	14 J. DESCHAINS 1901 ADAM DORIN F. HALIBUT	C.P.R. G. STOKES P. SUCHY R. TYM CHUCK	13 C.P.R. Wm. GIBBS J. NIPISSING 1901 Wm. McVITTIE J. KOMARNISKY
C.P.R. GEO. MISKEY J. HRABEC L. J. DANIELS H. BAY Co. owner from C.P.R. IN. SEC 9.	C.P.R. P. CEBRYK H. HALIBUT J. HALIBUT	J. Mc GILLIVRAY 1902 M. ZOWTUK Wm. ZOWTUK	M. ZOWTUK Wm. ZOWTUK	Wm. McVITTIE 1929 A. KOMARNISKY	Wm. McVITTIE 1929 A. KOMARNISKY	J. NIPISSING 1901 Wm. McVITTIE J. KOMARNISKY	J. GLADU 1901
C.P.R. A. GROS LAND L. GROS LAND K.C. CATTLE CO.	C.P.R. P. CEBRYK H. HALIBUT J. HALIBUT	N. Mc GILLIVRAY 1902 Wm. HYSLOP H. HANSON S. FRANCIS N. ZOWTUK A. ZOWTUK	O. DESJARLAIS 1902 H. HANSON S. FRANCIS N. ZOWTUK A. ZOWTUK	G. MARUSZCZKA 1919-21 M. HYSLOP WARBURTON J. DODDS S. BILYK	1919-21 P. TANNER M. FEDOROVICH E. SCHMIEL J. KOMARNISKY LEO. SUCHY	S. KOMARNISKY K.W. SCOTT	
C.P.R. P. WERBISKI L. KOWALCHUK	P. DONALD 1902 F. CHRISTIANSON A. GROS LAND LYLE GROS LAND K.C. CATTLE CO.	C.P.R. H. HANSON C. CARLSON J. KARCHA	C.P.R. H. HANSON G. MATHEWS ANN KARCHA	A. PICHE 1901 A. OLSON F. OLSON R. OLSON	I. OLSON L. PETERSON E. CHEREMYSKY	C.P.R. Wm. McVITTIE S. AUGUSTINE Wm. MICHICH	C.P.R. Wm. McVITTIE Wm. MICHICH
	F. DAGNEAUX 1902 F. CHRISTIANSON A. GROS LAND L. GROS LAND K.C. CATTLE CO.	C.P.R. A. GROS LAND P. Bednarski F. Bednarski E. EWASIUKE J. HALIBUT	C.P.R. A. OLSON R. OLSON	A. HAMELIN 1901 I. OLSON A. OLSON M. OLSON R. OLSON	I. OLSON L. PETERSON E. CHEREMYSKY	C.P.R. Wm. SCHNARE S. AUGUSTINE Wm. MICHICH	C.P.R. Wm. McVITTIE Wm. MICHICH



Holmdene School.

were taken out, so during the early years it grew and decreased in size a number of times.

As population in the district grew, so did the number of children going to school. At one time there were fifty-four children attending Holmdene School with only one teacher for grades one to eight. Naturally as farms got bigger the enrollment got smaller. Holmdene was the first school to close and have a division owned school bus. This was in 1948 and the roads were certainly not the best, so farmers often had to go and help shovel a road out, in order for the bus to operate, and George Armstrong being the driver, certainly did his share.



Holmdene teacherage.

The schoolhouse was sold in 1951 to the Roman Catholic Parish in Ryley and the land was sold to Mike Zowtuk.

The accompanying map shows most of the people who resided in the district, however some of the early names are not readily available and some never lived on the land.

Mr. A. M^cGee, one of the early teachers, taught at Holmdene for a total of eleven years. Others who taught there were: Miss M^cGillivray, Mr. Mallett, Mr.



Ukrainian dancers dressed for Xmas concert in 1947 at Holmdene: Ernest Deputan, Peter Misky, Jacob Micklich, John Micklich, Ellen Bilyk, Irene Micklich, Nadia Skorochid, Stella Zowtiuk.

Rappies, Mr. Thirsk, Miss Link, Mr. Flett, Mr. Dinwoodie, Mr. Bayduza, Mr. Timchak, Wm. Ogradnick, Mrs. Ann Yanchysyn, Mrs. Anne Soroka, Mike Bartman, Peter Kozoway and Albert Olson.

The last chairman of Holmdene School board was Algot Hultholm and Steve Deputan was secretary-treasurer.



Music Class at Holmdene. Back Row: Steve Rurka, Paul Shtokal. Front Row: Emily Skorochid, Stella Zowtiuk, Irene Micklich, Allan Hultholm.

Longridge School District #837

Longridge School was the first to be built in the Holden area. Early in the year 1903 a number of the homesteaders and settlers in the area east of Holden decided it was time to do something about their children's education. Longridge Public School District was formed. It comprised an area four miles (east to west) by five miles (north to south) in twp. 49 and range 15. Included were sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34. At a later date when more school districts were formed, the following lands were taken from Long-

				C. P. R. 1901 L. Grinde		LONGRIDGE Twp. 49 R-15 School No. 837 ●	
				V.B. BELL COURT 1906		PAUL BRINCAN 1902	
31		32		33		ORIGINAL OWNERS in CAPITAL LETTERS	
C. P. R.	C. P. R.	GOS LOGAN 1907 Mrs. G. Logan W.B. Logan J. Albrecht	EJ. Christianson	J. Luckowicki D.G. Brown A. Luckowicki	A. Markuson G.R. Zwierschke S.S. Zemlak		
A. ANDERSON 1906 Pride J. Berg T. Armstrong J. Howrish	A. PETERSON 1908 Ole Markuson L. Peterson T. L. Sabroski	C. P. R. A. Peterson I.C. Olson	C. P. R. W.G. Logan W. Luckowicki A. Luckowicki	J. LUND 1907 H. Christensen	H.C. NORLIE 1905 C. Christensen M. Christensen	C. P. R. H.A. Giebelhaus M. Slywka	
30		29		28		27	
LOUIS OLSON 1905 Lewis A Olson A. Mathews M. Howrish	P. MARTIN 1904 A. Peterson L. Peterson I.C. Olson	Lloyd Andrews (crown land) SAS. Zemlak	C.M. VAN ARSDALEN 1905 C.E. Breach A.J. Giebelhaus	J. PONVIRUKE 1906 C.E. Breach H.J. Giebelhaus A. Luckowicki	C. P. R. Pete Mydinski M.M. Slywka W. Chupka		
C. Mathews R.J. Christianson	L. Clark	W.A. CLARK 1906 H.M. Cox T. Tymchuk	R. KING 1907 C. Lindbeck A. Christofferson A.L. Johnson L. Tymchuk C.A. Christensen	R. Loney A. Christensen	Dora Loney	Jos. Bishop 1911 H. Crawford W. Stackhouse M. Howrell L. Christensen G. Christensen	J. WOHL 1907 M. Wohl S. Kolodychuk L. Kolodychuk
19		20		21		22	
C. Mathews R.J. Christianson	L. Clark R.L. Beth	H. KING 1906 T. Tymchuk R.P. Suchy	H. WHITE 1906 G. White M. Pooler A. Brigge B.S. Appleby V. Gossman	Est. May 8/03 A. Wismer J. Kondrat W. Chupka	R. KING 1909 M. Christensen E.H. Christensen	F. CHRISTIANSON 1906 J. Wohl M. Wohl L.E. Kolodychuk	
B. WHYTE 1911 W. Mathews Tattersoll T. Robinson R.P. Mielimaki A. Vandertorre	G. WHYTE 1909 H.A. Moore B. Sanderson	T. Appleby L. Gossman B.S. Appleby	Ellen Appleby (Ellen Gossman) A. Fischbusch L.E. Kraus	H.B. APPLEBY 1906 E.J. Appleby R. Grinde	M.J. APPLEBY 1905 H.C. Appleby	B.T. Russell J. ZUZAK	P. Lundblad
18		17		16		15	
T. HOUSTON 1902 Blackburn G. Siegel A. Siegel B. Hurum B. Lutz	A. JOHNSON 1907 Fred Jones A.E. Jones T. Armstrong T. Komarnisky A. Tymchuk	T. Appleby R. Giesler John Pipke Frank Korbyl R.E. Korbyl	W.R. APPLEBY 1906 E.J. Appleby R.A. Grinde	T. APPLEBY 1906	P. Kjosness J. ZUZAK	P. Lundblad	R.A. Grinde
M. Hurum	L. Chabot A. Kondrat S. Kondrat D. McCloy	H. BAY Co. Olga Grinde	H. Logo Hav. Stienwand.	A. GLADUE 1902 MacDougall J. Cox P. Chamulke P. Lundblad	E. COLLINS 1902 W.O. Storlie M.J. Bourque W.D. Storlie		
7		8		9		10	
O. Hurum L. Hurum	C.E. Breach S. Kondrat	W.S. Riddel T. Elgin S. Kondrat L. Hurum	J. Pasnak D.B. McCloy	A. Leddy N. Crimmin A. Grinde	A. GLADUE MacDougall R.D. Lundblad	W.D. STORLIE 1902	

ridge to add to the new districts: N½ 31, N½ 32, NW¼ 33, Sec. 34, and E½ 27. The board obtained permission to buy a school site and build and furnish a schoolhouse. In November, 1903 a piece of land 16 rods by 15 rods in the northwest corner of SW¼ 49-15 was purchased from John W. Connelt for the sum of \$1.00.



Longridge School #837, the first in the Holden district was opened in 1904.

Longridge School was much like the schools being built in the country at that time. It was a frame building covered with siding, topped with a peaked shingled roof. It had three windows on the south and three more on the north side of the structure. There was a door on the west side, and a brick chimney surmounted the east end of the roof peak. The inside walls were lined with v-joint lumber and varnished a dark brown. In the centre was a potbellied heater which made it very hot close by and left the outside edges of the room freezing in cold weather. The heater stood on a piece of galvanized metal by a coal scuttle and shovel. A long line of pipes wired to the ceiling connected the heater to the chimney. Across the front of the room was a blackboard complete with



The new Longridge School.

chalk rail. There were a couple of maps (Canada and The World). A teacher's desk was positioned at the front of the room. A brass hand bell adorned its top and a strap occupied the drawer. The pupils' double desks were screwed to the wooden floor. One small bookcase held all the library. (Those who enjoyed reading knew the few books almost by heart.) Across the back of the room were hooks below a shelf for children's clothing and lunches (in syrup or lard pails). At a later date a cloakroom was built outside the door to accommodate lunches and outdoor clothing. Other equipment included a washstand equipped with a tin basin and a pail. The drinking water was obtained in the early days from the pump at the shallow well in the yard, later water was hauled from homes. Above the washstand hung a towel and a drinking dipper.

Articles of Agreement made in duplicate

the fourth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three.

BETWEEN

John W. Connelt of the Town of Strathcona in the District of Alberta and North West Territories of Canada, Farmer (hereinafter called "The Vendor") of the FIRST PART,

—AND—
The Board of Public School District number 837, and called "Longridge" Public School District, in the North West Territories (hereinafter called "The Purchaser") of the SECOND PART.

Witnesseth that the said Vendor agrees to sell to the said Purchaser and the said Purchaser agrees to purchase of the said Vendor, the following lands and premises, namely:

That part of the south west quarter of section twenty one in Township forty nine in range fifteen west of the fourth meridian which may be more particularly known and described as follows, that is to say:—Commencing at the north west angle of said quarter section, thence east, along the northern boundary of said quarter section, sixteen rods; thence south, parallel to the western boundary of said quarter section, fifteen rods; thence west, parallel to the northern boundary of said quarter section, sixteen rods, more or less to said western boundary thereof; thence north along said western boundary, fifteen rods, — more or less to the place of beginning, containing by computation one and one half acres, more or less.

Together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining, at and for the price or sum of one

Dollar of lawful money of Canada, payable in the manner and on the days and times hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, upon the execution and delivery of a good and sufficient transfer of said lands, in fee simple, by

Agreement of sale of land for Longridge school site.



Class at Longridge with Miss Bennett. Left row: June Christensen, Greta Lundblad, ?, Marlene Lundblad. Second row: Gertrude Grinde, Katie Brigge, Tillie Giesler, Josie Kondrat, Lorraine Gossman. Third row: Jean Appleby, Allen Christensen, Alfred Giesler, Lois Gossman. Far right: Marian Lukawiecki, Verne Gossman.



Gathering of Longridge people at the John Wohl farm.



A gathering of local people at the Neal Crimmin farm.



Caroline Kennepp. (Note slate and school lunch pail.)

The school opened in the fall of 1904, with Charles A. Brisbin as the first teacher. Later teachers (not in order) were Mr. Moore, Miss Rose, Miss Mitchell, Miss Taylor, Miss Tilda Shermack, Miss Mabel Birkness, Miss Mae McLeod, Mr. John Taylor, Mrs. Follinsbee, Miss Madge Dorsey, Miss Betty Bowen, Miss Jean Inglis, Miss Evelyn Deby, Miss Jean Peden, Miss Marion Malcom, Miss Shirley Hemphill, Mrs. Christoffersen, Miss Mary Fleming, Miss Dorothea Sorensen, Miss Anne Robertson, Miss Helen Westbrook, Mr. Cliff Bawden, Mrs. Mary Pilypow. Mrs. Rosa Berry and others not known. In the earlier years the school was often closed because no teacher was available.

Other buildings included two privies in remote corners of the yard, a coal shed and an eight horse barn. Each family was responsible for cleaning its stall. In winter this was difficult and some poor horses were almost standing on their heads by spring.

The first school board was composed of Thomas Appleby, Harry White (secretary) and probably W. A. Clark and August Peterson. Minute books at Provincial Archives show that members of the board were Harry Appleby, Neal Crimmin, Lloyd Andrews and Wm. G. Logan. More recent records are not



Basketball wear, 1924. Victoria Mathews, Harriet Appleby, Emma Albrecht.

available, but we are told that Joe Kondrat, Lloyd Loney and L. Gossman also served.

In 1927 the old school building was sold to Bernard Nelson and is still being used as a granary by Ernie Komarnisky. A new school with "modern facilities" was built. It boasted a basement with a furnace and a playroom, and "sanitary" toilets (which were pumped out at regular intervals). The schoolroom had a bank of large windows all on the east side, and at least two walls of blackboards.



Back Row: Alfred Giesler, Lorraine Gossman, Peter Hayduk, Marian Lukawiecki, Verne Gossman, Tillie Giesler, Gertrude Grinde. Middle Row: Douglas Johnson, Reinhold Grinde, Katie Brigge, Miss Helen Westbrook, (teacher) Eddie Christensen, Arthur Grinde. Front Row: Allan Christensen, Mary Gossman, June Christensen, Greta Lundblad, Jean Appleby, Josie Kondrat, Ksenia Hayduk, Lois Gossman.

During the time of the old school there was little play equipment. Pupils contributed a few cents each to buy a ball and bat. Everyone from grade one up played together. In winter they played fox and geese, built snow forts, had snowball fights. Other games were prisoner's base, pom pom pullaway, hop scotch, anti-i-over, marbles, jacks and skipping. When Miss McLeod came she got them started with basketball. An outdoor court was measured and marked with lime on the ground. Some handyman built wooden standards and a blacksmith forged the hoops. Money was perhaps raised by a schoolhouse dance. The big girls even had uniforms, paid for by themselves.

Longridge became part of Holden School Division by order of the Minister of Education in October, 1937. At a meeting of the ratepayers in March, 1955 a motion was passed to close the school and bus the pupils to the neighboring schools of Holden and Bruce. After a year the property would be turned over to the community provided an organization would be formed to look after the property. The School Division was given permission to sell the property in August, 1956.

Longridge has always had a good community spirit. In the 1920's a club was formed. The neighbors would gather on Friday nights to dance during the winter at one of the homes. Music was provided through the years by gramophone and/or local musicians, some of these were Lars Peterson, Palmer Kjosness, Ross and Charlie Zwierschke, Harry Appleby, Bert and Ted Appleby and others.

The next Friday it would be someone else's turn to host the club. Really enjoyable evenings were spent at little cost. Many have memories of the sleigh rides home beneath the starry skies, or even getting tipped out into the snowbank if the drifts were big. After the local acquisition of the school, the community gatherings were held there, and the good times continued.

Marconi School District, #4254

In early 1926 the growing need for another school northeast of Holden was acknowledged, resulting in the establishment of the Marconi School District #4254. The first school board consisted of L. C. Johnson, W. Leclercq, T. Phillips and secretary, W. Gibbs. These men were responsible for the initial start, accepting tender for a sum of \$2200.00 for construction of the schoolhouse in fall of 1926 by David Clausen. In 1927, 30 some students were welcomed by their first teacher B. L. Duncan who taught them for five months. The students came from an area of three miles by five miles.

John Brun was hired to begin teaching in September 1927 for \$900.00 annually. This teacher set a record that was never broken, remaining in the Marconi School for four terms until the end of June, 1931. Dawne Hull was hired for the following term for \$720.00 per annum. September 1932 found Miss Christina Rae as the new teacher. The yearly turnover continued when Mary Ann Mahachuk came in September, 1933 for \$840 per year. However she broke the trend and remained for two years.

Longridge S.D. No 837
Dec 27 - 1933

Board meeting of Holden School
H.A. McLeod. Secy
The minutes for rent.
Moved by W. Crummin seconded
by L. Anderson that minutes of last
meeting be accepted.
Moved by W. G. Logan seconded by
L. Anderson that L. Gossman (holder
of coal tender) be allowed to get coal
where he may choose. And not to
cost more than 3.25 delivered.
Moved by W. G. Logan seconded by
W. Crummin that the following bill
be allowed and paid.

W. Crummin	Teacher	\$78.00	per
L. Anderson	Janitor	\$5.00	"
W. Crummin	Water	\$1.50	"
W. G. Logan	See. Fees Stamp	\$1.00	"
A. J. Guelchans	Wood	\$2.70	"
W. G. Logan	See. Fees Salary	\$20.00	"
W. Crummin	Ureany Barn	\$2.00	"
W. Crummin	See. Salary	\$75.00	"
L. Anderson	Janitor Dec.	\$5.00	"
W. Crummin	Water Dec.	\$1.50	"
W. G. Logan	See. Fees Salary	\$10.00	"
Stewart's Drug Store		\$5.15	"
M. Black's Store		\$5.65	"
Alvaro Henderson		.35	"
Conn. Curtis	Christmas Tree	.50	"

Minutes of Longridge School board, 1933.



Marconi School.

In September 1935 Miss Vera Ropchan arrived to teach for one year. Miss Mary Hunka followed in September 1936 for \$740. Her pay increased to \$800 during her second year ending in June 1938. It was during Miss Hunka's second year in February 1938 that the books of Marconi School District were handed over to the secretary of Holden School Division #12.

In 1938 Mr. Sorensen was hired. One year later Eleanor Young came for a four month duration. She was followed by Nellie Lindsey, who came in January 1940 to complete the term. Ms. Lindsey was the first to live in the newly constructed teacherage, where she remained until June, 1941.



Clean up day at Marconi School.



Pupils at Marconi School.

Margaret Manderson taught the following year, and was succeeded by Nadina Miller for the 1942-1943 school year. The months of September and October are not accounted for as the next teacher, Helen Hennessy did not come till November, 1943. She completed that school year. The following four school months are not accounted for in the records.

Ellen Ridley arrived in January 1945 and remained until June 1946. She was followed by Miss

Christina Wood who remained until the closure of the school. From that time the children from the surrounding farms were bussed to the Holden School.

Myroslaw School District #2106 submitted by Martin Osadchuk

The Myroslaw school district was organized in 1909 and the school was built in 1910 by John Yanushewsky and his crew. Peter Svarich was the first secretary treasurer and Sam Osadchuk was the first chairman. The district was comprised of the following lands: section 31, and the north half of section 30-50-15; sections 34, 35 and 36, and the north halves of sections 25, 26 and 27-50-16; sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18-51-15. The school was located on the N.W. corner of N.W. 6-51-15.



Myroslaw School #2106.

In February, 1910, the Minister of Education authorized the board of trustees to borrow \$1000, upon security of the said district for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house. In May of 1911 they were further authorized to borrow \$300 for improving the school site, building a teacherage and improving the school house.

The school was named after a Ukrainian student, Myroslaw Sichensky. Legend has it that one of the members of the Austrian appointed ruling body was making it a sport of shooting Ukrainian villagers. In one case he met a woman in the field whose name was similar to that of a bird. He ordered her to climb a tree. When she climbed the tree he shot her. Young Myroslaw vowed that he would put a stop to those murders. He hollowed out a depression in the pages of a book big enough to conceal a hand gun. This way he was able to pass through the security. He composed a verse which he recited to the killer, giving

TWP
51

J.B. Holden J. Gara		RaT. Spivak	T. CUNNINGHAM 1901 A. Johnston	L. Storoschuk	Babyn	Boyko	J. Storoschuk
11		12		7		8	
P. Lukian		L. HYSKA 1902 S. Kalynchuk J. Kalynchuk	D. KALYNCHUK 1903 M. Kalynchuk H. Romanuk	Gawreluk	N. Babyn	R. Babyn	
I. Rurka 1902	FRED RURKA 1902 B.J. Rurka	W. Romanuk	A. Atomanchuk	● F. KALYNCHUK 1902	D. KALYNCHUK 1902		
2		1		6		5	
JOE BARTMAN 1902	JACOB BARTMAN 1902 S. BARTMAN M. Seniuk	N. Woloschuk W. Bushnowski	P. Woloschuk	S. OSADCHUK 1901 W. OSADCHUK J. OSADCHUK	ONOFRY SLYICKA 1901	M. OSADCHUK	J. Foryno

TWP
50

JOHN CEBRYK 1902 M. Komarnisky	Paul KOMARNISKY 1902			WM. POEZYNIK 1902 M. Pochynok Wm. Pochynok	R. OGRADYNIK 1904 H. Rurka 1906		J. FARYNA
34		35		36		31	
METRO GUSTYNOWYCZ 1902 A. Rustynowich	HARRY BILYK 1902	N. Bilyk J. Bilyk Joe Bilyk		W. ZAWARSKI 1902 P. Deputan W. Deputan	P. DEPUTAN 1901 N. Pooke		
M. Bilyk	M. ZUZOK		S. Chorney			WM. ANDERSON 1901	E. CALLION 1901 C. Deschamps 1902 P.N. PUK V. PUK
27		26		25		30	
P. Cheremsynski E. Cheremsynski	H. Cheremsynski			H. Cebryk J. Cebryk		N. JOHNSON 1901	P. DEBULIEU 1901 J. BRELAND 1901 N.F. NIPISILLIG 1901

MYROSLAW SCHOOL ●
DISTRICT NO. 2106Present Owners of
SE-30 and SW-30
Wm. Pochynok
R. Pochynok

Teacherage at Myroslaw.

him a bullet for each murder. Myroslaw was arrested, but the Ukrainian people in the United States and Canada raised twenty-thousand dollars to bribe the warden who escaped to the United States with Myroslaw.

The first teacher at Myroslaw School was Mr. McCormack. He did not understand Ukrainian and the children knew not a word of English. He taught them by showing them things, or drawing them on the blackboard. On one occasion he went to the straw stack for some straw to show them what the word "straw" meant. By Christmas the children spoke English fluently. Some of the teachers that followed



Myroslaw School Students. Front Row: Martin Osadchuk, John Deputan, Peter Friend, Paul Puk, Bill Deputan, John Kalynchuk, Andrew Komarniski, Tony Komarniski, John Komarniski. Second Row: Ida Komarniski, Mary Bilyk, Annie Komarniski, Catherine Komarniski, Elizabeth Osadchuk, Clara Pochynok, Mary Osadchuk, Annie Pochynok, Nadia Derdak. Third Row: Nancy Bilyk, Mildred Kalynchuk, Pauline Hyshka, Sophie Augustynovich, Ellen Hyshka, Jennie Deputan, Pearl Komarniski, Ella Deputan, Nancy Augustynovich, Helen Hyshka. Fourth Row: Wilmot Ruttan, Pat (Peter) Komarniski, Nick Woloschuk, Steve Bilyk.

were; Mr. Sawiak, Mr. Starodworo, Mr. Novak, Mrs. Link, a lady from England, Nick Ogrodnick and others.

The school served the needs of the community until the early 1950's, when it was closed and the students bussed to Holden.

Palmer School District No. 1204 of the Northwest Territories by Emily Chrystian

Most of the early homesteaders who settled in the Palmer district, southwest of Holden, came from the United States. A few of the early settlers decided that



Community gathering at Palmer's new school — 1906.

C. P. R		A. SMORLIE 1902 W. Williams	Am. EVENSON 1902 A. Cappis D. Chrystian C. Stensrud Villetard	J. GUNDERSON L. Bratrud	Wm. J. Laskoski Hutterite Brethren	ELAIS. A. JOHNSON 1904 DAVIS Wm. J. LASKOSKI	GOTLIEB NORDWASKI 1903 A. POZERNUIK H. POZERNUIK	Wm. PASKOSKI Paul & Mike Poskoski	M. PASTUZYK		
15	C. P. R.	G. BOURQUE 1902 A. S. Kinsley J. Charpentier	ALBERT EVENSON 1902 O. Smorlie	P. LASKOSKY Hutterite Brethren		ALEX HELLEKSON 1903 C. Hellekson A. Hellekson	M. KOMARNISKY H. Komarnisky M. Zachorchuk Wm. Paskoski A. Hellekson	NORDWASKI H. POZERNUIK			
GEO. BOURQUE 1902		BERTH → SMORLIE	O. SMORLIE 1905 M. Meadhl C. Stensrud M. Magneson A. Hellekson	H. T. SANDVIK 1904	E. JOHNSON C. Hellekson	N. KOMARNISKY N. Pasnak M. Pasnak	LUKA Michael	MULICK Mulick			
10	G. BOURQUE 1902	GUNDER GUNDERSON Geo. Neil	L. GUNDERSON Geo. Mosby G. B. Neil	12	H. SANDVIK 1903 F. Sorensen F. Forre H. Heilson A. Bratrud	SAM. JOHNSON Harry Johnson E. Hellekson	A. RENN Huseby →	8			
TWP 48	J. LAPOINTE 1906										
J. KUNDSON		E. SLODIS 1905 A. Bratrud	GUNVAL GUNDERSON 1904 P. T. Sorgen V. Hovland	HANS. LEE T. Bratrud A. Bratrud	T. BRATRUD A. Bratrud K. Bratrud	S. K. JOHNSON 1903 H. Johnson	H. AUGUSTINE 1904 O. AFSETH E. Hellekson	S. MALOWANY P. Malowany Taylor Agencies L. T. D.	E. KRUGER A. Gibson		
3	A. MACQUARTER L. Kutt A. Cappis E. Chrystian K. Chrystian G. Gorden C. Staal	E. JENSEN 1906 T. EVANSON L. Hovland	L. M. HOVLAND 1904 L. Hovland	P. SORENSEN S. Sorensen	TOWLER FORRE J. CHRYSTIAN	W. JOHNSON 1903 T. Bratrud N. Overbo K. Bratrud	C. KELLY 1905 A. Augustine H. Sorgen O. Afseth E. Hellekson	E. W. KRUGER	5	C. AFSETH J. TOMASHISKI N. Fedvik A. Gibson	
J. FERKINGSTAN 1903 J. Jensen M. Chrystian K. Chrystian Geo. Gorden C. Staal		P. FORRE → T. Forre →		L. JOHNSON 1902 P. Sorensen C. Sorensen	A. LABOUCANE 1903 G. O'Doherty F. Forre J. Chrystian	K. SORGEN D. Huseby	Geo. MOHLER VAN LOUVENBERG	F. KRUGER 1905 A. Kruger Wm. Kruger A. W. Gibson	EGERLAK 1904 S. Maston-Storr J. Tomaskeski N. Fedvik G. Stensrud A. Gibson D. Gibson		
TWP 47	KOSE CHRYSTIAN Tom Chrystian	ALBERT ROMMEL H. Naslund	35	C. HANSON P. Sorensen	36	D. LABOUCANE 1902 O. P. Sorgen K. Sorgen	HUSEBY	31	Geo. MOHLER VAN LOUVENBERG	32	C. AFSETH 1905 J. Tomasheski N. Fedvik Art Gibson
G. GRASS T. Dochniak F. Yurkowski T. WoloKoff N. Tennant		D. SANDERSON 1903 Ness R. Hovland		Geo. MOHLER HANS Huseby	J. LABOUCANE HANS Huseby Henry Huseby D. Huseby	TOBIAS MONIPSON 1904 Geo. Mohler VAN LOUVENBERG			PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1204		
27	G. GRASS T. Dochniak F. Yurkowski T. WoloKoff N. Tennant	26	NESS R. Hovland	25	Geo. MOHLER HANS Huseby Conrad Huseby	J. NELSON 1905 J. Naslund H. Naslund A. Naslund	30	P. DUSDAHL 1907	29		
RGE 17 W4					RGE 16 W4						

they needed a school and formed a board consisting of Knudt Johnson, chairman; Lars Johnson, secretary-treasurer; and Lewis Hovland, trustee, in March, 1905.

By the order of the Commissioner of Education the following lands, sections 29, 30, 31 and 32-47-16, sections 25, 26, 35 and 36 and 36-47-17; sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18-48-16; and sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14-48-17 have been authorized to form

the Palmer School District No. 1204. The school was located on two acres in the southeast corner of NE 1-48-17. The earliest homesteaders are marked on the map.

The board of trustees wrote a letter to the Minister of Education to get some money to build a school. The Commissioner of Education authorized the board of trustees to borrow the sum of eight hundred dollars upon the security of the said district for the



Students of Palmer School — 1922. Front Row: Emina Sollid, Annie Kruger, Violet Evenson, Connie Bratrud, Harda Sollid, Clarence Hellekson, Towler Forre, Carl Sorensen, Metro Umrysh. Second Row: Myrtle Nowodworski, Leonard Johnson, Linea Johnson, Gordon Mohler, Henry Gunderson, Harry Komarnisky, Harry Johnson, Willie Kruger. Third Row: Lawrence Hovland, Stella Komarnisky, Selma Gunderson, Ebba Sorensen, Sarah Renn, Sherman Forre, Kenneth Sorgen. Back Row: Opal Sorgen, Emma Forre, Esben Sorensen, Lillie Huseby, Ernestina Renn.

purpose of securing a school site and erecting, furnishing and equipping a frame school house, with interest at not more than eight per cent per annum, and to be paid in eight equal installments.

I have in my possession the original minutes from 1905 up to and including 1955. The excerpts quoted herein are from this book.

"In August 1905 the board hired Miss Carrie Ritland to be the first teacher at a salary of \$45.00 per month, and have a term of school for six months, school to commence on November 1, 1905. Each tax payer had to pay a levy tax of 4½¢ per acre, and increased each year up to 12¢ per acre in 1912. In 1911, G. Gunderson's bid of \$25.00 was accepted for hauling the lumber and building a barn from No. 1 Drop Siding. The board decided to have nine months of school in the year 1912. Five months in the first term commencing about January 15 and four months in second term school to commence about September 1st. In 1918 a telephone was put into the school and in 1921 it was taken out. In 1919 teachers salary was \$960 per year, and if they couldn't get a teacher, they would raise it to \$1,200.00 per year. In 1921 it was passed that the school district furnish children with school supplies and teacher sell the supplies for cash when needed. Monthly report cards were to be sup-

plied to the school, and in 1924 the grade nine be discontinued until otherwise ruled by the inspector. In 1928 — vaccinating children against diphtheria and smallpox commenced and the school districts cooperating with Palmer were Scona, Sandstorm and Gladstone. Teachers salary in 1931 was \$850 per year, janitor work included. Then in 1932 the teacher salary was dropped to \$725 per year, including janitor work. There was a debate on teaching grade nine and ten in 1933-1934. In 1947 the tax payers drew up a petition to build a new school. So in 1949 the new school was built. The board got in contact with John Bruce in 1954 regarding the installation of power in the school. In 1956 the school was closed. E. Holo-wachuk put a bid on the barn for \$255.00. The old school 20' by 40' was sold to Conrad Huseby for \$350.00.

The Palmer School was an international school, it had students from Russia, Germany, Ukraine, Poland, Great Britain and Scandinavian Countries.

I was told the school was used for Church services, socials, school socials and Red Cross meetings. In 1917 a picnic was held at the school to raise money for the Red Cross. One of the greatest interests was a Christmas concert which the children practiced for about three weeks before Christmas.



Pupils at Palmer School 1943. Front Row: Mathew Chrystian, Lawrence Laskosky, Stella Paskoski, Shirley Bratrud, and Elsie Paskoski. Middle Row: Harland Magneson, Denis Huseby, Olga Paskoski, Peter Chrystian, Lawrence Tomasheski, Daniel Chrystian. Back Row: Annie Paskoski, Helen Tomasheski, Paul Paskoski, Mike Paskoski, Pauline Malowany, Robert Sorgen, Mary Paskoski.

All the students took part in the concert, reciting poems, singing Christmas songs and acting in plays. The school was decorated with crepe paper streamers, bells and a big tree. Then at the end of the concert the sound of bells was heard and Santa Claus would arrive and give out presents and bags. The evening was enjoyed by parents and surrounding neighbors. Then at the end of the school term a picnic was held with races, baseball, wiener roast, cake and real homemade ice cream which was a big treat.



Palmer students in 1954. Front Row: Larry Johnson, Alvar Naslund, William Chrystian. Second Row: Kost, Gloria, Violet, Christine and Sylvia Chrystian. Third Row: Allan Hellekson, Joyce Bratrud, Norma Huseby, Douglas Meadahl. Back Row: Lyle Bratrud, Earl Hellekson, Elmer Laskosky, Louie Chrystian, Keith Bratrud.

The supplies in the school were very limited. There weren't any reference books, except for three maps, North and South America, map of the World and one of Europe and Asia, and a school bell, double homemade desks for pupils and a homemade desk for the teacher. There was a large pot bellied heater in the corner of the classroom, which had to be started one half hour before the children came to school. The janitor was paid 15¢ per day including kindling. In 1912, Hartvigh Sorgen was hired to carry water to school at \$1.00 per month until some other arrangement could be made.

Miss Carrie Ritland was the first teacher to teach in the school. The old school was in use till 1947 and Mrs. Carrie (Ritland) Bratrud was the last teacher to teach there. Then a new school was built. Here is a list of the teachers that taught school from 1905 to 1956.

Carrie Ritland, Clara Johnson, Miss Mildred Mitchell, Thos. S. Mackary, N. F. Brand, S. B. Johnson, Mrs. E. C. Sly, B. F. Schnare, Miss A. Watson, H. R. McAllister, Mr. Fraser, H. Calquhoun, D. F. Philip, J. F. MacDonald, Mrs. A. H. Keane, T. W. O. Broadbent, N. G. Mackenzie, Agnes Nickalson, Miss Marion L. McDonald, O. P. Thomas, Katherine Cameron, Annabel Maxwell, Miss O. E. McNeill, Esther Gishler, Mr. H. C. Reynolds, Sela M. Beamish, H. B. Jones, Wm. Johnson, Miss Lois McAfee, Miss A. Gisk, Irene Mohler, Miss D. Sorensen, Linea Norman, Eileen Davis, Dorothy M. Armstrong, Aledia Iverson, Muriel Barlow, Mrs. Florence Johnson, Kathleen Lundgren, Miss O. Bruhaug, Miss N. Ruglan, Evelyn Baergn, Margaret Overbo and Miss Hazel Grey.

The teachers boarded at Sam Johnson and various other homes and walked to school. The dedication of the teachers to their profession was unbounded and they gave unstintingly of their attention to pupils numbering up to 40 in grades one to eight. After the teaching hours were over, the teacher would spend hours in the evening checking papers and working out a schedule for the eight different grades.

The new school was used from 1948 to 1956, when it was moved to Tofield to be used as a classroom. The pupils were bussed to Ryley, Holden and Bawlf. Mr. Bratrud bought the school property and it became a field with no trace of a school yard.

Poe School District #3239 by Alfred and Stella Sorensen

Poe School district #3239 was established in 1915. The school house, built by John Roberts, opened its doors in 1916 with an English lady, Eleanor Edgar, as teacher. Some of the first pupils were Carmen, Leola and Elma Overbaugh, Astrid, Mary

POE S.D. No 3234

				JIM KARENKO L.H.W. Suchy	P. WERBITSKI L.J. Kowalchuk
	1 A. BONEVITCH J. MacMahonic C.E. Herbert	J.R. McLENNAN	6 J.L. KOZDROWSKY	P. KOWALCHUK L.J. Kowalchuk	5 TONY LUPINO T.C. MAGNISON
N. DAMSGARD	N. PETERSON H.R. HOLMES P. KOMAR	J.E. ROBERTS		TONY LUPINO J.B. WELDON	C. WINSNESS E. ATKESON
M.J. Nakonechny	B.H. J.J. NAKONECHNY	D.L. HROBEC		T.C. MAGNISON	A & S Sorensen
	36 I. SPANGLER A.H. DYKIER T. Yule	W.K. McLennan J.R. McLennan	31 C. DAMSGARD I.C. OLSON	J.B. WELDON H. SORESENEN	32 J.B. WELDON A & S Sorensen
H. FORGAN T. MacMahonic R.A.G. Quiring	L. KOZDROSKI P. KOMARNISKY	D.G. BURNSTADT School	C. DAMSGARD R.A. OLSON	A.M. GENGBAR H. SORESENEN J. MacMahonic	D. CHETNEY J. Howrish D. Fory no
J. MOLESHKO	25 DR. HANNA OVERBAUGH S. FRANCES J. MOLESHKO A. Naherniak	H. ALBERTSON A. SILVERSIDES R. KOZDROWSKI M. KOLODYCHUK H. JENSEN	30 P. BRAGLIEN W. MYOWSKI C. CHRISTENSEN M. Deputan K. Deputan	D. FARLYNO M. DEPUTAN E. Deputan	29 B. McVITTIE J.C. Armstrong L. Litke J. NELSON D. Fory no
J.R. McLennan	P. TANGEN A.H. DyKier	K. KOLODYCHUK G. BROWN K. Kolodychuk	F. YEDLINSKI M. FISCHER	N. BURROWS B. BRADOL F. YEDLINSKI M. FISHER	R. MACKERLCHER H. SORESENEN Wm. Larson M. Fischer M. Deputan K. Deputan
23 M. LEHMAN W.L. Arbon	C.E. KELLY	H.A. STEWART C.E. Kelly	24 W. THOMPSON Wm CHUPKA	19 M. FISCHER HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	20 M. FISCHER N.L. CAMPBELL R & J Steinwand
S. HELGELAND	C. STEWART J. MAHOWICH	CHARLIE KELLY C.E. KELLY	ALEC CHUPKA	OLE E. LOGAN A. Logan	A. LOGAN
				HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	
14 B. KIRKELUND	A.C. STEWART	ALEC BARLOW	13 P. BARLOW	18 K. LOGAN A. LOGAN G. VALEN SCHRAM HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	17 P. NIELSON J. POOKE H. KOMARNISKY

and Dorothea Sorensen, Licie, Carl, Jesse, Robert and Russel Spangler. First school board consisted of John Roberts, chairman, Kenneth McLennan, secretary treasurer and Chris Damsgard.

The first school Christmas program was held in the Poe Hall situated east of the original Poe Store north of the railway tracks and immediately east of the Brownridge house where Kenneth McLennan and his mother lived until her death around 1917. I'm sure many of the teachers could tell tall tales of those concerts. But they were the event of the year for both children and parents, as they were home-bound most of the year. Music was a problem especially for a teacher not so gifted. When I came in 1933, I found an old organ in the school. From whence it came and when, I know not. I never mastered playing and pumping at the same time! That Christmas James Bracegirdle played his accordian for many items.



Eleanor Edgar, first teacher at Poe School, 1916-17.

When he left next year, we depended on a borrowed gramophone and one march record (Col. Bogey, I believe) for drills — and on our own voices for the Christmas carols. The night of the concert our one march record was stepped on in the excitement “back stage”. So someone had to stand there and hurriedly switch the needle back to the beginning of the usable portion (hopefully not throwing every one out of step, in the process!) each time it came to the broken spot.

My first Christmas concert in Poe School was memorable from another standpoint. The elevator agent, Johnny Jack, drove to the Ministik area, cut a ceiling-high spruce, lashed it to the top of his car and arrived at the school about 6 p.m. the night of the concert. Roads were poor then, the car high and light, and the weather cold and stormy. So he had taken quite a buffeting!

However, we finished decorating the tree just as the first people arrived for the concert. Santa Claus,

complete with sleigh bells, a bag containing an apple, Jap orange, nuts in the shell and some candy for each child (courtesy of the school board), a small gift for each pupil from the teacher (so no one was forgotten) plus gifts from some parents, was really the highlight for the children.



Poe School, 1923. Back Row: Betty Roberts, Agnes Grasdahl, Myrtle and Agnes Tangen. Middle Row: Marie Bendikson, Dorothea Sorensen, Viola Grasdahl, Virginia Bendikson, Mary Sorensen. Front Row: Alfred Sorensen, Arnold Logan, Jack Roberts, Stanley Grasdahl, Harry Forgan.

Sometime in the mid 20's an addition was built on to the south side of the original school. Again John Roberts was the carpenter. Large windows were put in the east side and lots of blackboard space on the north and south walls. A furnace was installed in the basement under the addition, with one large floor-level wall register to heat the building. Don't know who installed it, but it was not a success. The children had to take turns at the register thawing the ink in their pens — and themselves. In 1934 a coal heater was added at the back of the room. As the enrollment climbed to forty nine and extra seats had to be placed near the stove, it became a mixed blessing depending on where you sat. Those away from it were more comfortable — while those near it roasted!

During the early years Pastor McPherson from Ryley would come occasionally to Poe School to hold services. For a short time Sunday School was conducted. In the early thirties, Reverend Bosomworth from Holden occasionally came out on Friday afternoons to talk to the children. Later still the Mennonites held Sunday School there, converting Florence Forgan, and for a time, Walter McLennan.

Trivia gleaned from the Archives: In 1930 the teacher received \$5.00 a day. In 1931 Mike Chupka received \$3.50 a month for doing the janitor work. By 1934 the teacher's salary was \$700.00 per annum.



Poe School 1940-1941. Teacher Agnes Drozdowich.

The janitor, Paul Kozdrowski, was paid \$2.50 a month. A Mr. Holmes on the NE¼ sec. paid \$17.10 land taxes; so you can see why! The price of everything the farmer had for sale was at rock bottom.

Teachers at Poe School were:

1916-17 Eleanor Edgar	1933-38 Stella McCutcheon
1917-19 Donna Henry (Davis)	(Sorensen)
1919-20 Jane Bell	1938-39 Harold Simonson
1920-22 Jack MacDougal	1939-40 Miss Walkemeyer
1922-23 Miss Baker	1940-42 Agnes Drozdowich
1923-24 Charles Denny	1942-43 Mary Moderwell
1924-25 Mr. Mitchell	1943-44 Dorothy Armstrong
1925-28 Miss Muriel Law	1944-46 Mrs. Griffin
1928-30 Evelyn Deby	1946-49 Marian Lukawiecki
1930-33 Miss E. B. Attwood	1949-50 Harriet Ruddy
	1950-52 Anne Bekker

On June 7th, 1952 a ratepayers' meeting chaired by Kenneth McLennan and attended by Superintendent Ed Erickson and councillor Derdak, was held to vote on closing Poe School. Moved by Mr. Heine and seconded by Harry Komarnisky that a vote be taken for or against the establishment of school bus service



Students of Poe School, 1948. Back Row: Gertie Pooke, Millie Kolodychuk, Johnny Bonovich, Johnny Macahonic, Eugene Deputan, Marion Kowalchuck, Gloria Deputan. Middle Row: Jimmy Melezko, Adeline Kolodychuk, Mary Melezko, Selmer Komarnisky, Miss Marian Lukawiecki. Front Row: ?, Leonard Kowalchuk, Jean Macahonic, Joyce Nahrabiski, Sonja Deputan, Rosie Kolodychuk, Sylvia Deputan, Natalie Pooke.

for Poe pupils to attend school in Holden (or Ryley). Carried 25 for — 19 against! So ended the little country school.

About 1955 a Poe Community Club was incorporated, spearheaded by George Hunchak and Mike Seniuk. Other active members were Harry Komarnisky, Mark Kolodychuk, Stan Jober, John Romanission, Bill Chupka, Jim Karenko and others. Thus they were able to procure the school building from the county for one dollar to use for social activities. By 1972 interest waned and the club disbanded. About 1977 they were able to sell the yard and building to Mr. Jensen, who now owned the quarter it was on. At present, the derelict building still stands.

Polska School Distict #1948

The Polska School district was organized in 1909 with the senior trustee being Peter Miciak and the treasurer, P. Kulawy. The site selected by the board of trustees was situated at the S. E. corner of N.E. 13-47-16, across from St. John the Baptist Church. On July 20, 1909, the Minister of Education authorized the board of trustees to borrow \$1,500.00 upon the security of the said district, for the purpose of purchasing, fencing and improving the school site, building and furnishing a school house and sinking a well. On October 18, 1919, the board was authorized to borrow \$2000.00 for the purpose of building an addition to the present school, and on June 19, 1920 they were further authorized to borrow \$1,000.00 for the purpose of erecting an additional room to the old school. Mr. M. Kosinski was the treasurer at this time. During the period 1920 to 1928 there were as many as 105 students attending Polska School.

This school burned down in 1928 and classes were held in the church during 1929. Following this the district was divided, and Reward School district was formed to the south, and in December 1929 a new school site comprising three acres, for the Polska School was approved. It was situated in the S.E. corner of S.E. 25-47-16, 1½ miles north of the original school. The board of trustees was authorized to borrow \$2,500 for the purpose of purchasing and fencing the site and building a school house. Mike J. Wynnyk was the treasurer. This school was operational until it was closed in September 1954 and the pupils transported to Holden. Some of the teachers who taught at Polska School were Mr. Goitchi, Miss Wakowich, Miss Agnes McDonald, Miss Jessie McDonald, (sisters) Miss Mary Little, Miss Zaseybida, Mr. Gillis, Mrs. Ann Umrysh, Miss Bruff, Mary Leschysyn, Miss Ostrander, Mr. Street, Mr. Haulahan, Miss Anne Balko (Sroka), Frances Justik, Mr. and Mrs. Congdon, Francis Congdon, Myrtle Koetke (supervisor) and Frank Haluschak.

TWP
47

35	D. Famiw Gibson	P. LARSON 1902 M. TKACZYK	36	D. LARSON 1902 E. Leclercque	31		C.G. FREDT 1906 ← V.J. Schmalus	32	CHRISTIAN ALBERZ 1906 R. WEBB 1907 AF & E Winczura.
Gibson	J. GARDECKI 1904 D.F & MW Gibson	C. P. R.	C. P. R.	S. SROKA 1903 M. Tropak	A. SROKA 1903 D.N. McKibbin →	NICK MARKO 1920	S. KARCHUT 1920 J.A & I.O Faryna		
26	Victor Szott	E. Leclercque ----- A.W. Gibson	25	J.R. Motkoski P.H & D. Motkoski	J. TROPAK 1903 M. Tropak	J. Motkowski 1903 D.N. McKibbin →	JOHN TIMO 1920	D. MYTRO FARYNA 1920 N. Marko	
C. P. R. P. N. Balke	C. P. R. Mrs. L. Balke	W. DOCHNIAK 1903 E. Koetke →	L. OGONOSKI 1904 L. GIZOSKI	C. P. R. C & S. Kranzler	C. P. R. D. Kosinski	J. TIMO 1903 L. Kosinski	J. MIKLOSE 1903 N. Krupa 1905 N. Marko		
23	CaT. Metcalfe Vow. Wayneand	C. & S. Kranzler	T. ZAK 1903 C. & S. Kranzler	N. CHOMIAK 1903 G. GIZOSKI	J. MICIAK 1903 P.H & D Motkoski	W. SYERESONIEC 1903 L. KOSINSKI	P. MICIAK 1903 S.R. KOSINSKI		
R. WYNNYK 1903 V & W Wayneand	R. ZUZAK 1903 E. YAREMAN	J. YAREMAN	J. OGONOSKI	J. SYCZUREK 1903 F.R. & J.A Weisbeck	M. KOSINSKI 1903 L. S. KOSINSKI	P. KRYSKA	C. P. R.		
14			C. P. R. 13		18			17	

Range 16

Range 15

Polska School ●

POLSKA. SCHOOL DIST. No. 1948

Map of Polska School District #1948.

Reward School District #4447

On November 5, 1929, the board of trustees of the Reward School District #4447 were authorized to borrow \$2500 for the purpose of purchasing three acres of land for a school site, erecting a one room school house and fencing the school grounds. The site was situated on the southeast corner of S.E. 12-47-16, and comprised of the following lands; N½ 31-46-15, N½ of 35 and 36-47-15, sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and the S½ of 17 and 18-47-15, sections 1, 2, 11, 12 and S½ of 13 and 14-47-16. The senior trustee was E. Koelhi.

Some of the teachers who taught at Reward School were; Miss Gillis, Miss Florence Banks, Mr. Varshoski, Miss Woods, Roman Bayduza, Miss Stuber, Pearl Hladilo, Velma Lorenz and Frank Haluschak.

The school was closed in 1956, at which time there were only five pupils in attendance. The students from that area were then transported to Holden School. The school, teacherage and outbuildings were sold in 1957 and the school site in 1959.

SCHOOL		14	13	18	17	
WASYL DOLENY 1904 John Ablehoyke E. Siebold	N. PANAS 1903 Harry Panas John Panas P. Vandesleuls Irvin Berkholtz		A. FARYNA Joe KOSINSKI Albin Szott	JAN SZUREK 1903 Matt Sturek Leonard Sturek F. Wiesbeck T. Polko	MACIEY KOSINSKI 1903 Stan KOSINSKI	LEO KOSINSKI
NELS SOMMERS M. WillisKO	Wm PANAS M. Sharuga	R. FARYNA 1904	WOJCIEK KOSINSKI 1905			JOHN MICIAK Joe Miciak F. Wendt C. Schmaltz O. Stang
11		12		7	8	
JOHN R. WYNNYK Honke Hahn	MACIEY BOBIK 1904	MACIEY BOBIK 1904	A. KLEBAN 1904			
E. HARYSM S. Zeraslyk J. Stechynski J. T. Szott	PETER KASZA 1906		J. NIHAJOWICZ 1905 L. Nehajowich D. Sutton D. Hayworth	J. MARUZZECK 1906 Ed. Wolochoff	ERNEST KOEHLI Werner Koehli Philipsen	ERNEST WIRTH Sam WIRTH Joe TKACZYK M. Pudlowski P. Pudlowski
2		1		6	5	
PIOTER SZOTT 1903 Peter Szott Bernie Szott	SZEHAN ROBUSKI 1903 John Rogoski	ELINGSON M. Polehoyke	SAM NAHAJOWICH E. Golombuski	STEFAN KARCHUT 1904	M. BUDYNAKI 1904 Peter Kasha E. Golombuski Fisher	
RGE 16		HWY 26 CORRECTION LINE		RGE 15		

Map of Reward School District #4447.

Sandstorm School District #2789

The first settlers came to what became the Sandstorm School District as homesteaders in 1902 or 1903. They came mostly from Iowa, Central Europe, and Ontario. The accompanying map shows the names of the homesteaders and the year in which they made entry. Only those who received their patent are shown. Many others who made entry and were unable to prove up, left, and someone else made entry on the same parcel of land.



Sandstorm School.

In 1914 the C.P.R. Colonization Department brought out 65 families from the Western States to settle land in the Bawlf, Earling and Holden districts. Some of the families who settled in the Sandstorm area were the Gabrielsons, Jacobsons, Lobergs and Chermos. A few parcels of land are still owned by the C.P.R. and are so marked on the map. Some of these have had dwellings on them, and many renters have lived there over the years. Now the buildings are in ruins and the land is farmed by local farmers.

In the early days the country was partly treed, with enough open prairie to make it suitable for breaking. There were also numerous sloughs, and to the west was Sandstorm Lake. When the Holden Drainage District came into being, and the ditches completed in 1919, much of this area was drained and made into excellent farm land.

It wasn't until 1912 that an effort was made to organize a school district. Palmer and Scona were already in operation, and some of the children attended these schools, but a number of families lived too far away and regular attendance was difficult.

In October, 1912, the Department of Education authorized the Trustees of Sandstorm School district

County Comrose

	B. STAZKO 1907	FRED KOETKE 1903	FRED KOETKE Otto Koetke D. MacGregor J.M. MacGregor	
29	JAS. COURTNEY Geo. Zolabko Alvin Koetke	JAS. COURTNEY 1903 John Kozak	J. EDINGER 1905 M. Babyn Albert Miller N. Stechyski	27
	TOM COURTNEY 1903 Peter Cebryk Peter Jaber David Jaber	CHRIS CHEAMO Albert Miller Mike Zuk C. P. R.	STEVE KRATKO	SAM CONDRA 1908 I. WYNNYK 1905 MIKE WYNNYK
20	ANTON CHORNEY 1907 P. Shihinski F. Koetke Jr. Jack Gleason	C. P. R.	21	22
			IVAN SCHOONHOVEN 1906 G. Gabrielson H. Hilland H. Field P. Schwanke	H. BRATROD 1906
	OSCAR KOETKE John Ronsko Ernest Koetke	GEO. MCARTER 1906 Oscar Koetke	W. EDINGER 1907 Dick Newbury	C. P. R. C. P. R.
17	U.G. MC CARTER J. Mc Kormack F. Kapler John Mydlak	U. RUTHERFORD 1904	H. RUTHERFORD 1904	15
			C. P. R.	C. P. R. L. Oberg M+I Szott R. Kaben John Ronsko
		HANSON John Jaber	FOSSEY Chester Twitchell C. P. R.	A. CHROMIK 1903 P. POLEHOYKE 1903 Fred Mydlak B. Batter
8	OTTO KOETKE Norman Koetke	9	C. P. R.	10
	AUGUST SZOTT 1904 Fred Szott Fred Wendt		M. KARLHUT 1903	H. POLEHOYKE 1903
	HAK JOHNSON John Szott Victor Szott	THOMAS SZOTT 1904 Mike Szott John T. Szott	ROBERT TODD 1904	T.P. JACOBSON N. Stechyski John Campbell V. Query
5		4		3
	C. PETHER 1904 P. Kowalchuk G. Gunderson J. Sholey M. Babyn	E. HAINES 1904 U.G. McCarter C.K. Grove		

SANDSTORM
SCHOOL
DIST. No 2789

HWY 855

T.WP 47

HWY 26 CORRECTION LINE.



Sandstorm School, 1921. Back Row, L to R: Miss McGilvery (teacher), Alice Edinger, Betty Koetke, Katie Chromik, Alice McCarter, Steve Wynnyk, Olaf Loberg, Robert McCarter (in front of Olaf), Iley Edinger, John Chromik. Front Row: Pauline Wynnyk, Frances Courtney, Helen Gabrielson, Vera Courtney, Everett Courtney, Mary Loberg, Hazel Courtney, Roy Edinger, Clifford McCarter, Lloyd Edinger, Willie Koetke, John Polehoyke and Harry Chromik.



Students of Sandstorm School — 1929. Back Row: Irene Gabrielson, Frances Courtney, Olga Mydlak, Helen Gabrielson, Hazel Courtney, Alma Jacobson, Annie Mydlak. Centre Row: Mabel Courtney, Borghild Jacobson, Mary Mydlak, Ethel Courtney, Esther Gabrielson, Ruth Jacobson, Evelyn McCarter, Annie Szott. Front Row: Louis Polehoyke, Jacob Jacobson, Howard Courtney, ? McCarter, Johnny Szott, Sylvan Jacobson, Eldon Courtney, Fred Mydlak, August Szott, Harry Polehoyke, Vernon Courtney.

to borrow the sum of \$1000 for the purpose of purchasing and fencing a site, building and furnishing the schoolhouse and erecting outbuildings. The district was comprised of the following lands: Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 and the east halves of sections 5, 8, 17, 20 and 29 in township 47, range 16. Treasurer at the time was George McCarter and senior trustee was Fred Koetke. According to an old timer, other trustees were Tom Courtney and Jake Edinger. Fred Koetke Jr. was the secretary. The name "Sandstorm" was chosen because of proximity to Sandstorm Lake. Approval of the site, at, or near a point eighty rods south of NW15-47-16 was given in 1913.

Two homesteaders in the area, Sam Maston and Wilbur Storr were hired to build the school, and it was opened in the fall of 1914. Martin Peterson of Longridge District was the first teacher. Some of the other teachers were: Kathleen McGillivray, Mrs. Beulah Sandwick, Edith Pederson, Miss Jones, Miss Knox, Florence McGillivray, Arthur McGee, Mrs. Gleason, Miss Anne Lerl, Miss Thea Hendrickson, Miss Anna Anderson, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. Outhouse, Miss Fox, Alfred Cameron, Miss Lucille Hovland, Tom Sheridan, Eleda Horning, Pearl Wynnyk, Miss Matvichuk, Miss Carrie Pewar, Henry Huseby, Al-eda Iverson and Roman Bayduza.



Emily Slonapas (long hair) boarding school bus (1947).

The school served the community for many years. The district was taken into the Holden School Division #17, in 1937. According to the minutes, a meeting of ratepayers was held in July, 1946 to discuss the merits of bus service and larger centralized schools. This was followed by several more meetings, and much discussion. At one point a petition opposing centralization signed by a number of ratepayers was sent to the divisional board. Eventually a decision was reached and at a meeting in May, 1947, the ratepayers asked the Holden School Division to close Sandstorm School and provide transportation to Holden School, to begin in Septem-

ber, 1947. Suggested pay for the driver was \$3 or \$4 per day. Donald MacGregor purchased and drove the school bus. Sandstorm students thus enjoyed the distinction of being the first to be bussed to Holden.

At a meeting of Sandstorm ratepayers in January, 1949, it was decided that the school buildings be sold by tender.

Scona School District #2086

by Nick Laskoski

In 1910, the first trustee, namely Fred Shehinski, chairman, Yakim Mulick, secretary treasurer and trustee A. B. Nelson met and passed a motion to raise \$1000 by debentures to purchase a site, the southwest corner of S.W.-11-48-16, located eight miles south of Holden and to build a school house. Notice calling for tenders were posted and Chris Afseth's bid for \$746.00 was accepted. He was to supply the necessary material for the price.



Scona School and teacherage.

Miss Catherine Griffin was the first teacher employed at Scona at a salary of \$650.00 per annum, starting in April, 1911. Anton Tchir was appointed truant officer.

The following are the names of teachers that taught there, but not necessarily in that order: James Hanly, Miss Andrews, J. A. McMurchy, Leo B. Brown, John Gasvin, Mrs. E. K. Easton, B. W. Bradley, L. B. Rogers, John Hughes, L. Shaw, F. C. Shonn, P. S. White, V. W. Winters, Francis Condon, Jean McMillan, D. J. McRitche, Mrs. Crawford, Pearl Wynnyk, Steve Billows, Jerry Popil, Mike Saranchuk, Annie Olesek, Mary Laskoski, Josephine Mulick and Frank Halaschuk.

The school was used for many other purposes, such as social gatherings, for teaching religion, plays, concerts, political meetings etc. It was the centre of the community until it was closed to give way to centralization, when the children were bussed to Holden. The school house was then moved off the site to Iron Creek, and thus came a sad end to a community centre.

MIKE PASTUZYK	WM UMRYSH	MAX KOMARNISKI	FRANK WIER	STEVE LASKOSKI	STANLEY ZIMENILK	MIKE CLUNE	J. KOMARNISKI
		WALTER KOMARNISKI		Leo Laskoski	Andrew TRACZYK		
				Pete LASKOSKI	(Dow and Ducking) DED TKACZYK	D. Dond F TKACZYK	Peter. P Komorniski
16			15	14		13	
YAKIM MULICK	PETRO WERKIJOWSKI		M.H & J. ZACHARCHUK	ANDREW HLADILKO	STANLEY ZIMENICK	JOHN TKACZYK	M.A. KOMARNISKI
	S. Mulowko			Bennie Pasnak			
MIKE PASTUZYK	Wm. Umrush			Vic Pasnak	Pete Christian	Bennie-Victoria Pasnak	Joe Stefanizym
DMETRO OZUBKO	H. SHEHINSKI	DMETRO OZUBKO	WASYL TKACZYK	ANDREW NELSON	ANDREW NELSON	ANDREW NELSON	SAM NELSON
J.F. Danilak		Fred Ozubko	John TKACZYK		John Nelson	NICK Pasnak	Tony STERONIZYM
D.R. Friesen	Wm. Umrush	Joe. Ozubko	NICK LASKOSKI	NICK LASKOSKI	Fred NACONASKI	Bennie-Victoria Pasnak	Joe Stefanizym
9		10		11		12	
J. BABYAK	M. BABYAK	JOHN BABYAK	ANTON TCHIR	ANDREW TCHIR	JOHN NELSON	JOHN NELSON	JOHN NELSON
G. Henderson	J. Danilak	Metro Babyak	Fred Tchir	Mike Tchir		Martin Hendel	
J. DANILAK		Melvin Babyak	Frank Tchir	NICK TKACZYK	NANCY Kowal	John Hendel	John Hendel
D.R. Friesen	D.R. Friesen	Andrew Babyak					
ALEX CHOMIK	FRED UMRYSH	R.C. HOVLAND		MIKE TKACZYK	MIKE DANILAK	PETER DANILAK	GEORGE DANILAK
John Danilak				WASYL Marko	Pete Danilak		
Mike Umrush				Walter Harasymchuk	Pete Christian	Peter Christian	John Hendel
NICK Hnybida	John Umrush						
4		3		2			
NICK DANILAK	TOM MALOWANY	J.R. JENSEN	R.C. HOVLAND	WASYL MARKO	ANDREW MICHALAYKO		RUDE BROTHERS
	John Malowany	Nels Jensen		Walter Harasymchuk	Steve Harasymchuk		John Ozibko
Joe Jober	Joe Jober	Chris Hovland			Walter Harasymchuk		Mike Marko
		R.C. Hovland					Emil MOZONKOWSKI
LAWRENCE KOMARNISKI	NICK KOMARNISKI	NICK DANILAK	JOHN DANILAK	JOHN DANILAK	HARRY MICHALAYKO	A.W.T. OLSON	JOHN OZIBKO
		Mike Jober	Henry Danilak				
	Lawrence Komarniski	Albert Jober	Joe Danilak	Bernie Danilak	walter Harasymchuk	Rubeon Grinde	PHILIP LACIEROG
33		34		35		36	
S.W. MCGREGOR		STEVE TOMESHESKI	FRED SHEHINSKI	TAYLOR S. Gundersen	SCONA SCHOOL		
		Pete Ogonoski		Arthur Gibson	SCONA S.D. No 2086		
		Bill Ogonoski		A.L. Gibson			
		S.W. McGregor	John Shehinski	David Gibson			



Scona Class — 1930: Francis Condon, teacher.

DOMINION OF CANADA
PROVINCE OF *Alberta*

114-4

\$1,000^{XX}₁₀₀ Debenture No. I

Scona School District No. 2086 of the Province of *Alberta*

The Board of Trustees of *Scona* School District
(OR OFFICIAL TRUSTEE, AS THE CASE MAY BE)

No. 2086 of the Province of *Alberta* promise to pay the bearer at the *Merchants'*
Bank of Vancouver *Vegreville* the sum of *One Thousand* Dollars
of lawful money of Canada in *Ten* equal consecutive annual instalments with interest at the rate
of *five and one-half* per cent. per annum on the terms and in the amounts specified in the coupons
attached hereto.

Dated this 20th day of April 1910.

Fred Szehinski CHAIRMAN
Nov. 27, 1908 (N.S. 10)

Wm. Mitchell TREASURER
(OR OFFICIAL TRUSTEE)

RICHARDSON & BISHOP, LTD., STATIONERS, WINNIPEG, 18700

COUPON NO. 101 Debenture No. I

The Board of Trustees of *Scona* School District
do hereby certify that the sum of *One Thousand* Dollars
has been paid to the bearer of this coupon on the day of *April*
the sum of *One Hundred* Dollars being the *10th* instalment of principal with the
total interest at the rate of *five and one-half* per cent. per annum
due on that day on School Debenture No. I

Fred Szehinski Chairman
Nov. 27, 1908 (N.S. 10) Treasurer
(Or Official Trustee)

Debenture Agreement 1910.

Talbot School District #1415 by Agnes Stambaugh

According to the records on file at the Provincial Archives, the settlement of homesteads in the area southwest of Holden which we know as the Talbot district, commenced in 1902.

The pioneers arriving in the area seemed to have come from various places with no group immigration plan. Some came from the drought stricken Dakotas, others from Europe, the Scandinavian countries, the British Isles, and Ontario. Most settled during the period from 1902 to 1906.

Those who filed on homesteads in early 1902 were: Joe P. Lemm, Matt Lemm, Adam Dorin, Fred Eder and W. B. Scoville. The largest number of



Talbot School.

	C. Macahonic		CLEM WILLIS S. Bianoski	IVER WOLD Mrs. T. Barlow A. Barlow	A. Dorin Darin Bros. C. Kolodychuk	Putnam J. Romanisson	G.H. Taylor W. Poock J. Kassen	W. Moore J. Stecyk W. Stecyk				
	Heinrich Pipeline.	11	C. E. Kelly	W. Halvorson	12	W. L. Mackay	C. Bratrud	7	Hutterian Brethren	8	Hutterian Brethren	H. Stecyk
			T. Bianoski	T. BIANOSKI S. Bianoski		C. B. FODNESS Mrs. T. Barlow A. Barlow	A. Dorin Darin Bros. C. Kolodychuk		J. Romanisson		J. Baraniuk	
	B. VanTattenborn		L. Davidiuk	Hutterian Brethren		G. Papa	L. Bratrud		Hutterian Brethren		Hutterian Brethren	F. Stecyk
J. J. Green H. Macahonic	H. MARRIAGE H. Sorgen P. Enns A. Lehman		H. Homeniuk	J. Houston N. McClellan W. Wasyleshko	J. Houston	Jos. P. LEMM Sawamba N. Boris J. Orenchuk C. Kolodychuk	T. KENNEDY		L. Bratrud			
B. VanTattenborn	A. Kowalchuk		M. Kowalchuk	J. Snyder	A. A. Schank	L. Bratrud			Ridgeview Dev.			
3	J. M. Green F. Nowodvorski		A. G. SHERBURNE H. Marriage P. Enns A. Lehman	C. WOLD A. A. Tangen	1	D. TON Grasdal	W. F. KENNEDY T. Kennedy J. Kennedy M. Maze	6	W. F. KENNEDY		Joe Good Stackhouse H. Naherniak J. Ronsko Ridgeview Dev	
	G. Teske		A. Kowalchuk	C. E. Kelly		D. Snyder	J. Poock		G. Hunchak			
M. SHERBURNE Scott Evenson H. Sorgen R. Geddes R. L. English F. Nowodvorski A. Teske	A. Podruzny		Mrs. C. Houston	A. A. TANGEN		MATT LEMM Dr. E. F. Taylor G. H. Taylor M. Nalesnik	Matt Lemm Dr. E. F. Taylor G. H. Taylor Ridsdale J. Pearse J. W. Smith M. Nalesnik F. C. Brejnak		N. Carlson P. Naherniak J. Ronsko			
34	W. B. SEVILLE Geddes Southron Shimko		A. Podruzny	S. Tomko		L. Bratrud			N. Fritzler Ridgeview Dev			
M. Kush- nerick	A. Teske	35	Atamanchuk	J. STICKLAND P. Lozowski D. Borin	36	P. TANGEN J. Stickland T. Nalesnik	F. Eder W. Good	37	C. Melby			
	G. Kushnerick		Calg. Power	G. W. Kelly		K. Bratrud	M. Manchur		Geo B. Henderson			
	A. Oppen W. Stensrud C. Stensrud		F. ANDIJCZUK G. Maruszczyka Nalesnik Joe White S. Bernick	F. Johnson A. Dorin F. Dorin		J. Stickland T. Nalesnik	A. DORIN Litke J. H. Anderson E. Yakobczyk		F. EDER Ridsdale R. J. Good A. Hussey E. Yakobczyk			
	Villetard	26	D. Maruszczyka	Calg. Power	25	K. Bratrud	W. Moulson	30	W. Moulson			
	N. Kushnerick		N. Kushnerick	W. Sherfy A. Oppen P. Lozowski D. Borin		W. Sherfy A. Oppen P. Lozowski D. Borin	S. KONDRO E. Yakobczyk		P. A. ERICKSON L. B. Ritland H. Nalesnik			
	M. Kushnerick		M. Kushnerick	G. C. MacGregor		G. C. MacGregor	W. Moulson		W. Komarnisky			
	Mrs. Maaneson		H. Nalesnik F. Dorin	J. DORIN A. Dorin Mrs. F. Dorin		B. Hanson L. Sandbeck C. Stensrud	J. Nalesnik Lowry		J. Nalesnik Lowry			
	J. Fleming	23	Calg. Power	A. K. Kiebiech	24	Villetard	N. Ronsberg	19	N. Ronsberg			
	H. Sorgen H. Stensrud C. Stensrud		H. Sorgen H. Stensrud C. Stensrud	W. DORIN A. Dorin Mrs. F. Dorin		B. O. EVENSON J. Gunderson	Mrs. E. Johnson D. Bratrud		Tiedeman LaCrosse W. Steffen			
	Villetard		Villetard	D. Kiebiech		L. Bratrud	A. Hellekson		C. M. Schoepp			

TALBOT S.D. No 14
T.W.P 49 + 48
R.G.E 17 + 16

TALBOT S.D. No 1415

T.W.P 49 + 48
R.G.E 17 + 16

Map of Talbot School District #1415.

people to file and settle in the area did so in 1904 and these included: W. F. Kennedy, Thomas Kennedy, T. Bianowski, A. A. Tangen, P. A. Tangen, M. Sherburne, R. G. Sherburne, John Dorin, Wm. Dorin, H. Marriage and B. Hanson. In 1905 Carl and Ivor Wold, C. B. Fodness, P. A. Erickson, B. O. Evenson and H. Homeniuk arrived. Frank Andijczuk, Clem

Willis, James Stickland and S. Kondro filed in 1906. People who came in succeeding years and who were unable to get homesteads purchased land from the C.P.R. and H.B. Co.

The Talbot district was originally called Ulster. Mr. Tom Kennedy had chosen this name for the store he opened in the fall of 1904 on the SW 6-49-16-W4.



Talbot School 1927-28. Grades 1 to 9. Large patches of plaster gone from ceiling and side walls. Many nationalities; German, Ukrainian, Norwegian, English, Scottish and Irish.

Supplies were brought in from Wetaskiwin and he also made buying trips to Winnipeg. The store also served as a distribution centre for mail that was included with the freight from Wetaskiwin.

According to a photocopy of a post office history record card I received from the Postal Museum in Ottawa, permission to establish a post office at Ulster, Alberta was granted to Mr. Kennedy in February, 1908. He also served as justice of the peace and magistrate, and was responsible for recording vital statistics for the area. The Ulster post office closed in November, 1915.

Photocopies of documents received from the Field Services Branch, Department of Education indicate that application for a school occurred early in 1905. Research has failed to reveal how the name Talbot was derived, and we presume the name was chosen in honour of an individual or place.

A copy of a press release dated at Edmonton on October 11, 1905 described the sections of land designated to be included in the formation of the Talbot School District No. 1415, Northwest Territories. The Senior Trustee was Joe P. Lemm, Vermillion Valley. This release was issued by the Deputy Minister of Education and appeared in the Alberta Gazette, Volume 1, No. 1.

An authorization issued by A. C. Rutherford, Minister of Education, granted the board of trustees permission to borrow the sum of eight hundred dol-

lars. The money was to be used for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and furnishing a school house and building outbuildings. Another letter to the board of trustees approved the purchase and possession of a landsite consisting of three acres which was situated on the northwest corner of the NE 36-48-17-W4.



Talbot School Kids about 28-29. On horse: Ed. Dorin, Norah Kennedy, Carl Tangen, Wm. Good, Terence Kennedy, Emil Dorin, Harry Good. Below: Florence Good, Emma Dorin. Middle Row: Elsie Kennedy, Hattie Steffan. Behind are the Bionoski twins, Mary and Minnie.

Construction of the first Talbot School commenced in 1906 and was completed in 1907. Mr. P. A. Erickson built the barn and outbuildings.

The school did not open after it was completed. A few families had left the community and the board of trustees felt that there were not sufficient children of school age to warrant the hiring of a teacher. During this period, children who resided on the eastern perimeter of the Talbot district attended Vermillion Valley, and those on the western perimeter attended Shaw School. Talbot was opened for classes in the fall of 1917 and the first teacher was Miss Moore.

Correspondence from the Department of Education in January, 1918 served to notify the board of trustees that Mr. J. W. Russell, B.A. had been appointed Official Trustee (School Inspector) of the Talbot School district.

It was interesting to note some of the names of the district residents who had served on the school board over the years and these included: Joe P. Lemm, P. A. Erickson, P. A. Tangen, James Stickland, H. Marriage, W. F. Moore, A. A. Tangen, Geo. H. Taylor, John Kennedy, Joe Pooke and Alvin Lehman.

Access to the school registers on file at the County of Beaver in Ryley were available and these covered the school terms from 1926 to 1953. Names of the teachers prior to 1926 were supplied by former residents of the district and a few had been pupils when the school opened in 1917. The following is a

list of the teaching staff employed at Talbot School commencing in 1917 and until its closure in June, 1953: Miss Moore, Mrs. Smith, Miss Hoover, Miss Stauffer, Miss Viola Story, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Berkness, Miss Mae Foley, Miss Ronola McPherson, Mr. C. Hollingsworth, Miss Beryl McLeod, Mr. A. Broeder, Miss Pauline V. Treffrey, Miss Mary A. M. Crawford, Miss D. M. Seccombe, Miss M. J. McNally, Mr. Henry Huseby, Miss Anna M. Parsons, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Kathleen Bendiksen, Mrs. Eleanor Good, Miss Joyce Bailey, Miss Martha Woida (Supervisor), Mrs. M. A. Benfield, Miss Josephine Mulick and Miss S. Hanson.

Notes of interest from one register read: Talbot School was closed by Order of the M.D. of Parkland as a precautionary measure against infantile paralysis from September 21 to October 11, 1927. Subjects required for a grade 8 Diploma were: Arithmetic, Literature, Composition, Grammar, Spelling, Geography, Hygiene, Art, Agriculture, History and Civics.

Teachers were boarded at the Sherfy, Houston, Kennedy and Taylor homes until 1947 when a teachersage was moved to the school property.

Church services were conducted in the Talbot School during the 1930's and early 1940's by clergy from the United Church at Holden. Mrs. Tom Kennedy served as organist and also contributed her services as organist for annual school Christmas concerts.

The Talbot School district was included in the Holden School district by a ministerial order dated October 26, 1937.

In the spring of 1947 construction of a new school commenced and it was completed for the fall term. The original school building was sold to Mr. H. Stensrud and moved to the SE 23-48-17-W4 where it was later renovated into a residence.

In June, 1952 residents of the district held a meeting at Talbot. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss closure of the school. Ballots were cast and the majority in attendance voted in favor of the closure and the bussing of pupils to Holden. Classes continued for the 1952-53 term and when Talbot was closed in June, 1953, arrangements were made for it to be moved to Holden. The school is located on the Holden School landsite and remains in use as a classroom.

The Talbot School landsite was sold to Mike Nalesnik in 1954.

Togo School District #1692

by W. Ogrodnick

The assumption is that the name Togo was derived from Heihachio Togo (1847-1934), a Japanese



Second Talbot School built 1947. Moved to Holden in 1953.

TWP
51

19	J. Kozdrowski A. Kubin	20	D. BEREZUK 1902 A. Lakusta P. Lakusta	21	J. Kolodychuk 1901 P. Powley	22	Wm. Kieryluk M. KIERYLUK 1902 H. Prystash ← M. Stewart
18	W. BARANIUK 1902 Joe DUGYNIWITZ 1902 P. EWASIUUK W. EWASIUUK	17	A. Semchyshen H. Pierson N. Babiak	16	F. PETRYGA 1902 N. Pet	15	F. PETRYGA 1902 W. Wowk
7	O. Lundin N. EWASIUUK	8	D. Petryga A. Kolodychuk N. Zuk A. L. Zuk D. Frebrowski	9	S. Soney W. Launhardt	10	IVAN KALYNCHUK 1901 D. Kolynchuk 1901
6	C. Penner P. EWASIUUK A. Kropielnicki	5	F. Hejnar I. Hejnar	4	J. L. Kolodychuk	3	⊕ Borschum Church F. IWANETZ 1905 J. Ewaniw
5	H. TISZIKINREZ 1903 C. E. NELSON 1905 M. A. Kolodychuk H. Kropielnicki	4	N. PUK Krystal	3	M. JACULA 1901	2	IVAN KAURNISKI 1901 D. Suchy
4	BERTHA SAGER 1903 F. PODBOROZNY 1905 J. Bor Podborozny P. Podborozny	3	H. Podborozny W. Hrabec	2	JOE WESPINSKI 1902	1	Wm. Ewaniw M. Gara

TWP
50

36	M. West A. B. Pederson	31	N. Mulacia N. Kolodychuk	32	Wm. Lucas R. Kropielnicki	33	M. LUKASZ 1902 N. Lucas
25	T. Muhlum	30	M. Kolodychuk	29	E. Klasse	28	W. STEKO 1902 P. SLYWKA E. SLYWKA
24	S. Kubin	23	A. LEE 1902	22	J. H. HILL 1902	21	J. (IVAN) SLYWKA 1902 Wm. SLYWKA
23	O. HAGEN 1902	22	HENRY HILL 1902 Wm. Shyba H. Shyba	21	JOHN SLYWKA 1924	20	Wm. SLYWKA 1924
22		21	JOHN HRABEC 1929 A. Hrabec	20	N. SKOROCHIA 1938 P. Skorochid	19	M. BANAS J. Macahonic
21		20		19		18	P. SKOROCHID 1905 E. Kozak
20		19		18		17	N. JASIUSKI 1905
19		18		17		16	T. Shimko

TOGO SCHOOL DIST. No. 1692 R-16

naval commander at the outbreak of Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) who commanded the main fleet and gained brilliant victories over the Russians in the harbour of Port Arthur and in the battle of Sea of Japan.

Following are the trustees elected by the residents of Togo S.D. #1692 for the year of 1908. Danis Berezuik for three years, Wawro Baron for two years and Michael Jacala for one year.

Peter Svarich of Vegreville was appointed as the first secretary-treasurer for the salary of \$30.00 per annum and had to furnish a bond for \$1000.00.

In March 1908, the secretary-treasurer was instructed to communicate with the C.P.R. and The Hudson Bay Company re purchase of two acres of land for the school site, and also to inquire of the Department of Education re debenture forms, and proceed with the debentures immediately.

The minutes indicate that in March, 1908, the secretary reported that debenture #1 for \$1200.00 had been approved by the Deputy-minister of Education, bearing interest at 8% and payable to the lender, the Merchant's Bank at Vegreville. In April, 1908 two acres of land were purchased from the Hudson Bay Company for \$24.00 for a school site including an offer of a deed for \$5.00.



Togo School.

In July, 1908, it was moved by Bereziuk and seconded by Wawro Baraniuk, that August S. Wilson's tender be accepted to build the school according to the specifications for the sum of \$970.00 which was to include the schoolhouse with teacher's room, two outhouses, the setting up of twenty seats, framing the blackboard and mounting the blinds and maps.

The school tax was levied at 7½ cents per acre, making a total tax of \$12.00 for a quarter section of land. These taxes were collected locally by the secretary-treasurer.

In March, 1909, the first teacher, Vladimer

Rudko was engaged to teach for the first term at a salary of \$600.00 per annum. He was followed by R. H. M. Rude who was hired to teach for \$600.00 per year which was seven to eight months. The subsequent teachers as recorded in the minute book were: W. H. McGrath (1911), Kelly (1915), Taylor (1921), Goshko (1922), Treen (1923), Clarke (1925) E. M. Brady (1926), and Stroka (1927).

In September, 1928, the original schoolhouse was sold to William Nebozenko for \$400.00 and it was used as a post office and store for many years in the hamlet of Haight. R. Gillies was hired to build a two room school for \$4800.00.



Students of Togo School in 1946. Front Row: Joan Kolodychuk, Elsie Ewasiuk, Janet Hejnar, Rose Kozdrowski. Second Row: Natalie Pidoborozny, Lillian Augustynovich, Susan Rurka, Zenia Kolodychuk, Joyce Powley, Rose Budinski, Margie Ewasiuk. Third Row: ?, Elsie Petryga, Katharyn Krystal, Dorothy Semchyshen.

The following teachers were engaged to instruct in the two classrooms: Mr. and Mrs. Third (1928), M. Jardine (1930), Mr. and Mrs. Gartly (1931-32), Mr. and Mrs. O. Donnel (1932), and Mr. and Mrs. Perrich (1932-35).

During January 1938, the Holden School Division #17 was organized and took over the administration of all the rural schools within its bounds.

Here again, the list of teachers in the minute book is not complete, but to the best of knowledge they were as follows: S. Krezanowski and J. Popil (1935-41), E. and J. Nay (1941-42), Wm. Ogrodnick (1942-51), Elsie Shyba (nee Powley), Marion Korbly, Anne Makarowski (nee Pelutranke), A. Teronchak, W. Kitt (supervisor of correspondence lessons), John Kulba, and L. Knuth.

During August of 1949 an additional acre of land was purchased from I. Kokotyn to add to the size of

the playground, and an additional classroom was erected in the hamlet of Haight to allow for expanding school enrollment.

In the 1950's centralization of rural schools by the County of Beaver #9 resulted in the Togo students being bussed to Holden or Ryley. The school building was eventually moved to the Borschiw parish site, where it serves as a dining room and kitchen.

Unity School District #2137

by Diane (Kryska) McNeil

Although very few immigrants were able to read, write, or even speak English, they wanted their children to be educated and have all the benefits and opportunities of this new country. As parents, they took the initiative. This took the form of a School Board Committee: Dmytro Faryna, as chairman;

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2137 School ● Built 1910							
D. PAMAS 1907 J. wandio A. Vanchura		M. KALITA 1905 J. Kalita T. Kalita		C. P. R. A. DOCHNIAK P. KIZIAK		C. P. R. A. KALITA P. KIZIAK K. KIZIAK	
M. FARYNA 1903 A. Faryna J. Faryna		K. KINDRAT 1903 A. Nicholson 1906 M. Misyk 1907 O. Misyk		C. P. R. J. MISYK P. KIZIAK		C. P. R. JOHN KAWALILIAK	
C. P. R. Z. KALOWSKI J. KIZIAK		C. P. R. P. FARYNA J. FARYNA R. Faryna		P. KAWALILAK 1904 JOE Kawaliliak		C. P. R. HUTTERITE Brethren	
ALEX KRYSZKA 1903 P. KRYSKA		C. P. R. A. KRYSZKA		C. P. R. JOE SKOLNEY Mrs. D. SKolney		C. P. R. J. SKolney L. SKolney	
P. MARCO 1905 J. Marco R. Faryna		J. SOLOWITJ 1903 John SKolney L. SKolney		C. P. R. S. SOLOWAY W. Chrystian		C. P. R. F. MATTIS F. Wendt D. Dawson P. McCarty	
J. ZYLA 1903 J. BLYSCZAK 1904 Jn. SKolney L. SKolney		J. CZAPSKI 1905 John Naherniak Joe Naherniak		C. P. R. S. Soloway W. Chrystian		C. P. R. F. MATTIS F. Wendt D. Dawson P. McCarty	
C. P. R. S. KARSHUT Jn. SKolney L. SKolney		C. P. R. M. Naherniak J. Naherniak		JAN K. STECZEK 1903 J. STUZEK 1905 G. Stecyk D. SKolney		N. STUZEK 1903 W. Marcinkoski D. Ronsko	
C. P. R. A. SROKA		C. P. R. J. SROKA		JAN. SROKA 1904 J. SROKA		W. MARCINKOSKI 1905 R. Blatz G. Wray	
A. KEWOSCH 1904 P. YASMANISKI		J. KOHUT 1905 A. SROKA Blatz		C. P. R. G. WRAY		W. MARCINKOSKI 1920 STang	
G. PHILPOTT 1906 J. Naherniak		G. PHILPOTT 1906 W. SROKA Kozart		C. P. R. J. SROKA 1927		C. P. R. P. PHILPOTT 1906 J. Naherniak	

○ Kobernick Church

Dmytro Panas, as secretary-treasurer; John Soloway, as trustee; and Austin Droney, as acting secretary. Two months later, Reverend Father Hura, parish priest of the Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church, was elected to the board, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Dmytro Panas.

Their first recorded meeting was in 1910. A road was surveyed to the proposed school site and was to run along the "blind road" which joined sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 to sections 16, 15, 14 and 13. The school was to be located on two acres of land in the uppermost corner of NW 15-47-15. This land was purchased from the C.P.R. for \$33.00 per acre.



Unity School.

The trustees, by way of debenture, borrowed \$1,300.00 from the H. O'Hara Company at 5¼% interest, and their first payment was due April, 1912 at the Trader's Bank of Holden. This enabled them to buy the land and begin construction of a school house. Each land owner in the Unity School district was taxed 4⅜ cents per acre which also went toward expenses. The tender for construction was awarded to C. P. Dunston of Holden for the sum of \$950.00; and Unity School was completed in 1910. It was a one-room building with an attached entrance way. The shingles and siding were cedar, and the interior was finished with V-joint boards. The school was heated by a large wood and coal heater located near the center of the room, and the "seats of learning" were wooden desks with cast iron legs and frames.

The school yard was fenced with willow posts (3-wire) in 1912 and for protection against prairie fires, the area around the school was cultivated at a cost of \$6.00. Further improvements included the building of a two-room teacher's residence and a well was dug in the spring of 1917. It was the duty of the teacher to clean, sweep and look after the heating of the school in exchange for the use of coal and wood for heating

his/her residence. In 1950, a new teacherage was built, and another well was dug by Joe Gusta.

The school was opened in November, 1911 with William Awyland as teacher. He taught for six months at a salary of \$60.00 per month. By 1914, there were 24 children of school age, which by 1918 had almost doubled to 44 students. Education was available up to grade 8, and the school was open for about six months of the year, or whenever a teacher could be hired.

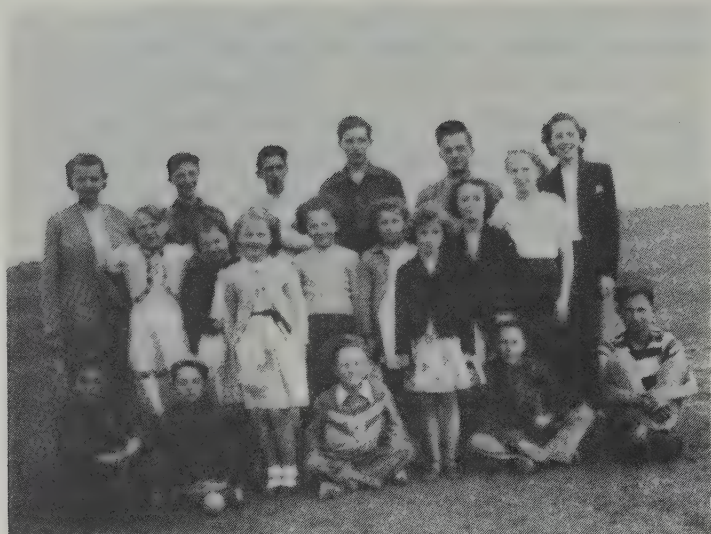


Students of Unity School about 1936. Back Row: Carrie Pewowar (teacher), Helen Marcinkoski, Agnes Laskoski, William White, Helen Kawalilak, Elsie Mattis, Frank Sroka. Front Row: Ed Sroka, Frank Marcinkoski, Marian Marcinkoski, ?, ?, ?.

In 1922, a barn was built on the school property to shelter the horses.

The school house was one of the centers of activity in the community. It was used for Christmas concerts which were performed by the school children, and was the meeting place for school board committee work. For a cost of \$10.00, in 1922, the school could be rented for local dances. There was also a stipulation that \$1.00 would be charged for any broken windows.

Being a member of the school board was a position of responsibility and starting in 1926, trustees had to sign an oath of office. Members of the board at one time or another throughout the years were Fred Mattis, William Marcinkoski, Steve Kawalilak, Steve Karchut, Alex Kryszka, Joseph Skolney, George Stecyk, Harry Chonij, John Stecyk, Sam Cwihula, John Skolney, Ernest Wurth and Alex Kalita. Other ratepayers in the Unity School district also had a strong voice and sat in on the school board meetings. The last active board meeting was held in February, 1953 — Joe J. Skolney was chairman, John Marko was secretary-treasurer and Pete Gizoski was



Pupils of Unity School in 1950. Front Row: Allan Pudlowski, Orest Faryna, Daniel Kalita, Joe Faryna, Ted Gizoski. Second Row: Diane Sroka, Patricia Skolney, Jeannette Marko, Carol Soloway, Audrey Gizoski, Virginia Kawalilak, Leona Kawalilak, Agnes Kalita. Back Row: Florence Marko, Eddy Pudlowski, Walter Nahirniak, Peter Pudlowski, Russell Faryna, Lorraine Soloway.

trustee. It was decided that the school be closed and that in September, 1953, the children from Unity School be bussed to the town schools.

The school building was sold for \$550.00 to Joe Johnson of Viking, in 1956, and the barn was purchased by Ed Marcinkoski of Bruce for \$265.00. There had been many teachers in Unity School, and over the years their starting salary increased from \$60.00 per month to about \$160.00 in 1952.

The following is a list of all teachers and the approximate year when each began teaching:

William Awyland (1911), W. F. Cavanagh (1912), C. G. Markle (1914), Mike Bilinski (1915), James Sullivan (1916), Donald McLeod (1919), Miss McLlan (1923), George Szkwarok (1924), Ernest Shmith (1925), Mike Clune (1926), L. M. Kerchinski (1929), Francis Condon (1930), Pearl Zaseybida (1935), Carrie Pewowar (1936), Stella Woyciechowski (1939), Thelma Bratrud (1942), Carrie Pewowar (Mrs. Fred Mydlak) (1943), Josephat Balko (1945), Kay Lundgren, Lena Soloway, Helen Kawalilak, Helen Makarowski (substitute teachers in 1946 and 1947), Stella Krawiec (1948), Mrs. Rock (1949), Edith Falkied (1950), June McGinnis (1950), Bill Werstiuk (1950), and Doreen Draper (1952).

Vermillion Valley School District #1087

Although life in the early years consisted mainly of long arduous hours of labour just in order to survive, the early settlers of townships 48 and 49 were also concerned with the education of their offspring. Seven ratepayers met at the home of Jacob Ritland in June of 1904 to discuss building a school. The per-

sons present at this meeting were Jacob Ritland, Fred Schmolke, Lars Jacobson, Andrew Evenson, Ole Hanson, L. E. Jacobson, and Otto Fjellstrom. The first executive was chosen: chairman, Fred Schmolke; secretary, Otto Fjellstrom; and treasurer, Ole Hanson. At subsequent meetings a location in the middle of the township was deemed desirable as a site for the school, and Ole Hanson donated one acre of land for this purpose. The school property was located adjacent to the Battleford Trail. Authority to form a school district and to build a school on the chosen location, were requested from the Department of Education.

Research into local records, the land titles office, and the records of the Department of Education failed to provide proof that the location was designated a school site. The only place that the location is marked is on County of Beaver maps. However it is reasonable to assume that the proper authority was granted, as the school was named the Vermillion Valley School District #1087. The official location of the school was N.E. 28-48-16.

A loan of \$800.00 had to be procured from Haultain and Wood of Regina, for constructing and furnishing the building. The hauling of materials and the construction of the school were put out to tender. Mr. J. H. Mohs contracted to haul the lumber from Wetaskiwin for the fee of 43¢ per 100 lbs., and Anton Evenson and Henry Stensrud were awarded the building contract for \$60.00. The building, without paint, was completed August 14, 1905 and ready to open.



Vermillion Valley School.

Numerous expenses were incurred in the next few years and, although the amounts may seem paltry compared to current standards, they were a continuing burden to the struggling homesteaders. The first fire insurance was purchased from Mr. Wm. Campbell for a premium of \$3.50 for three years.

Range 15

ED. LOGAN L. HLADILO HUTTERITE BRETHREN	ED. LOGAN GLADYS HLADILO HUTTERITE BRETHREN	F. LOGAN E. LOGAN J. W. Clarke L. G. Hladilo Sig. Gloim M. Ruskenev HUTT. BRETH	C. P. R. OLGA BURNSTAD Hector Cowan H. Hanson Steinwand A. Schmidt	C. P. R. MIKE SOPINWYK	PETTE PETTERSON CLE SE P. J. Thompson S. Mielemdka L. Mielemdka R. Wilkinson	BARNEY HURUM MI. Umrysh Alvin & Betty Fisch Bush	→ Metro Umrysh W. Hallett
OLE. CHETNEY Mary Sopiwnyk	BERNT CHETNEY L. Hejnar	OLE CHETNEY Ludvig Hejnar	C. P. R. OLGA BURNSTAD Hector Cowan H. Hanson Steinwand A. Schmidt	C. P. R. T. White H. Houlette M. Sopiwnyk	Frank Mohs M. Sopiwnyk L. Hurum	ARIEL CARLSON M. Umrysh Alvin Betty Fischbush	W. Carlson R. Laube
FISCHER Wm. Good.	L. RITLAND James Good P. Slonopos Vern Black	J. POKRKA Lucelle Pokrka	V. WEGREZYN J. Pokrka M. Pokrka L. Pokrka	JOHN MOHS F. WELTERS M. Black.	FRED JONES T. Gorrie J. McLeod L. Hurum	LARS JACOBSON MARY Fjellstrom	A. EVENSON L. JACOBSON G. T. DODDS Miller Chas Jones A. Wren
JACOB RITLAND J. Good. G. Henderson C. Melby	L. RITLAND Pat. Fleming G. Fleming	J. POKRKA L. Pokrka	E. JACOBSON F. Slonopos Vern Black	JOE MOHS T. Moorehouse Wm. McLeod J. Fleming	Wm. McLEOD J. Rongko	W. JACOBSON A. WREN J. TKACZYK	O. FJELLSTRON Mory Fjellstrom L. Hurum
PRERICKSON M. Malowany	K. FODNESS R. Evenson Einar Hanson E. Magee H. Ewert Jim Brown	O. HANSON I. Pauline S. Condoro W. Dorin N. Pasnak	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY S. Micjak	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY J. Horbeck M. Ozubko	S. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK	LENI. RITLAND Myron Pasnak	F. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK
K. FODNESS S. Nalesnick Mike Malowany	K. FODNESS R. Evenson Einar Hanson E. Magee H. Ewert J. Brown	ED. FLEMING Pat. Fleming J. Fleming	C. P. R. E. Fleming P. Fleming G. Fleming	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY J. Horbeck S. TKACZYK E. HANSON B. Pasnak	H. B. CO. F. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK	STANLEY WOLCHOWSKI Lew Ritland M. Pasnak	FRED TKACZYK J. TKACZYK G. Brown
J. DORIN Adam Dorin Kushinski G. Christian P. Malowany J. Malowany	H. FODESS M. Mulick R. Mulick	J. OZUBKO M. OZUBKO E. OZUBKO	L. JACOBSON D. OZUBKO J. OZUBKO M. OZUBKO	J. FLEMING P. Connolly L. Mulick M. Mulick M. Pasnak	ONESKA TKACZYK P. TKACZYK W. TKACZYK	ONESKA TKACZYK A. TKACZYK	ANTON KOMARNISKY Mike Komarnisky
K. DORIN A. Mulick M. Mulick	LUKE MULICK M. Mulick	L. MULICK	Wm. STEFFAN F. Pasnak N. Hnybida D. Hnybida	E. LASKOSKY LASKOSKY P. Laskosky	E. LASKOSKY STEVE LASKOSKY	E. GABRIELSON Oneska, Ed, Andrew TKACZYK	E. LAKUSTA A. Komarnisky Paul Komarnisky Peter Komarnisky D. GOLKA

Battle Ford
Trail to
Wetaskewin

Range 16

ED. LOGAN L. HLADILO HUTTERITE BRETHREN	ED. LOGAN GLADYS HLADILO HUTTERITE BRETHREN	F. LOGAN E. LOGAN J. W. Clarke L. G. Hladilo Sig. Gloim M. Ruskenev HUTT. BRETH	C. P. R. OLGA BURNSTAD Hector Cowan H. Hanson Steinwand A. Schmidt	C. P. R. MIKE SOPINWYK	PETTE PETTERSON CLE SE P. J. Thompson S. Mielemdka L. Mielemdka R. Wilkinson	BARNEY HURUM MI. Umrysh Alvin & Betty Fisch Bush	→ Metro Umrysh W. Hallett
OLE. CHETNEY Mary Sopiwnyk	BERNT CHETNEY L. Hejnar	OLE CHETNEY Ludvig Hejnar	C. P. R. OLGA BURNSTAD Hector Cowan H. Hanson Steinwand A. Schmidt	C. P. R. T. White H. Houlette M. Sopiwnyk	Frank Mohs M. Sopiwnyk L. Hurum	ARIEL CARLSON M. Umrysh Alvin Betty Fischbush	W. Carlson R. Laube
FISCHER Wm. Good.	L. RITLAND James Good P. Slonopos Vern Black	J. POKRKA Lucelle Pokrka	V. WEGREZYN J. Pokrka M. Pokrka L. Pokrka	JOHN MOHS F. WELTERS M. Black.	FRED JONES T. Gorrie J. McLeod L. Hurum	LARS JACOBSON MARY Fjellstrom	A. EVENSON L. JACOBSON G. T. DODDS Miller Chas Jones A. Wren
JACOB RITLAND J. Good. G. Henderson C. Melby	L. RITLAND Pat. Fleming G. Fleming	J. POKRKA L. Pokrka	E. JACOBSON F. Slonopos Vern Black	JOE MOHS T. Moorehouse Wm. McLeod J. Fleming	Wm. McLEOD J. Rongko	W. JACOBSON A. WREN J. TKACZYK	O. FJELLSTRON Mory Fjellstrom L. Hurum
PRERICKSON M. Malowany	K. FODNESS R. Evenson Einar Hanson E. Magee H. Ewert Jim Brown	O. HANSON I. Pauline S. Condoro W. Dorin N. Pasnak	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY S. Micjak	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY J. Horbeck M. Ozubko	S. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK	LENI. RITLAND Myron Pasnak	F. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK
K. FODNESS S. Nalesnick Mike Malowany	K. FODNESS R. Evenson Einar Hanson E. Magee H. Ewert J. Brown	ED. FLEMING Pat. Fleming J. Fleming	C. P. R. E. Fleming P. Fleming G. Fleming	C. P. R. P. CONNOLLY J. Horbeck S. TKACZYK E. HANSON B. Pasnak	H. B. CO. F. TKACZYK J. TKACZYK	STANLEY WOLCHOWSKI Lew Ritland M. Pasnak	FRED TKACZYK J. TKACZYK G. Brown
J. DORIN Adam Dorin Kushinski G. Christian P. Malowany J. Malowany	H. FODESS M. Mulick R. Mulick	J. OZUBKO M. OZUBKO E. OZUBKO	L. JACOBSON D. OZUBKO J. OZUBKO M. OZUBKO	J. FLEMING P. Connolly L. Mulick M. Mulick M. Pasnak	ONESKA TKACZYK P. TKACZYK W. TKACZYK	ONESKA TKACZYK A. TKACZYK	ANTON KOMARNISKY Mike Komarnisky
K. DORIN A. Mulick M. Mulick	LUKE MULICK M. Mulick	L. MULICK	Wm. STEFFAN F. Pasnak N. Hnybida D. Hnybida	E. LASKOSKY LASKOSKY P. Laskosky	E. LASKOSKY STEVE LASKOSKY	E. GABRIELSON Oneska, Ed, Andrew TKACZYK	E. LAKUSTA A. Komarnisky Paul Komarnisky Peter Komarnisky D. GOLKA

JOHN STEFANIZYN
ERIE GABRIELSON
lived on N-E-36
Battle Ford
Trail
to Bruce



Back Row: Harold Mohs, John Laskosky, Melvin Carlson, Elmer Logan, Eythel Houlette, Helen Houlette. Front Row: Abner Logan, John Ritland, Jack Good, Maurice Houlette, Pat Fleming, Linea Jones, Lily Carlson. In front Philip Connolly.



Back Row: Mary Mulick, Katie Laskosky, Mae Houlette, John and Peter Komarnisky, ? Kushinski, ? Kushinski. Second Row: Ethel and Knut Chetney, Ronald McLeod, Peter Laskosky, Michael Mulick, Ruth Chetney. Front Row: Helen Logan, Mary Fodness, Olive Connolly, Norma Mohs, Myrtle Laskosky, Harvey Gorrie.

ties. In 1909, one acre of land across the road from the school was purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway for \$20.00 (NW 27-48-16). A barn was built on this property by Olberg brothers for the sum of \$15.00. The secretary-treasurer of the school received a salary that fluctuated according to the prosperity of the area. For the first two years, the position received no salary, but in 1906, the executive voted in a salary of \$5.00 per year. In 1914 the salary was raised to \$14.00 per year, and in 1915 was raised to \$40.00 per year.

From 1917 to 1934, there was considerable fluctuation in the salary of the secretary-treasurer.

1917 . . .	\$25.00
1924 . . .	\$23.00
1925 . . .	\$50.00
1929 . . .	\$30.00
1931 . . .	\$25.00
1934 . . .	\$20.00

The decrease in salary corresponds to the Depression.

The largest single expense of the school was the salaries of the teachers. These also fluctuated with the prosperity of the area. The first teacher Miss Anna Ritland, was paid \$190.00 to teach from January 1906 to December 1906. By 1910 the teacher's salary was \$650.00 per year. For a period of time the teachers were paid per teaching day. In 1916 this rate was \$3.00 per day. As with the secretary-treasurer's salary, the relative prosperity of the mid twenties resulted in an escalation of teacher's salaries. In 1928, the teacher was paid \$1200.00 per year. The local prosperity and salaries were soon to decline and in 1931, the teacher's salary was \$1000.00 per year. In 1933 the secretary requested permission to hire a teacher for less than the minimum salary. The records

The school's financial records were subject to periodic audit. Mr. J. P. Fleming was paid \$2.50 to take the books to Bosman's for audit. Albert Stewart, C. M. Brisbin and Robert Emond served as later auditors.

In July, 1907, Mr. Joseph Mohs was paid \$75.00 for painting the school and the outhouses. He had also to provide good quality paint. As the threat of prairie fires was very prevalent, the school ground had to be clear of brush. Mr. Ole Chetney undertook this task for the sum of 5¢.

Mr. John Mohs was contracted to replace three window panes in 1908. The three panes cost \$1.10, and Mr. Mohs received 30¢ for installing the three panes. As time passed, the school expanded its facili-



Students of Vermillion Valley School. Back Row: Elsie Dukes, Stella Paskoski, Annie Dukes, Pete Tkaczyk, Bobby Mitchell, Jim Tkaczyk. Middle Row: Jim Komarnisky, Eugene Ozubko, Elsie Paskoski, Maurice Ozubko, Lawrence Pastuzyk, Walter Komarnisky, Roland Dukes, Johnnie Slonapas. Front Row: Emily Ozubko and Milton Tkaczyk.

do not indicate if the request was approved, but by 1935, the teacher's salary was reduced to \$750.00 per year. The rate was increased in 1936 to \$800.00 per year, and to \$840.00 per year for the 1937 school year. From 1937 onward, although no records were researched on salaries, it is assumed the salaries continued to increase until the closing of the school.

The functioning of this country school is largely attributable to time and dedication devoted to the school division by the board members. There were numerous members over the years and the following are some of those individuals: Messrs Bernt Chetney, G. W. Clarke, Philip Connolly, J. P. Fleming, Knut H. Fodness, John Good, Lars Jacobson, Loures Jacobson, E. C. Logan, Wm. McLeod, John Mohs, Joseph Mohs, J. D. Ozubko, Lars Ritland, Fred Schmolke, Andrew Tkaczyk and Sam Miciak.

The vital ingredient to the success of the school was the teachers. The teacher's task was formidable; principal, teacher of all subjects, disciplinarian and often fireman. Janitors were usually students willing to go early to start fires. For the life of the school 1906-1951 there were numerous dedicated teachers who taught at Vermillion Valley School.

Teachers For The Vermillion Valley School District #1087

1906-1908 Anna Ritland	1921-1922 M. J. Sampson
1908 Charles Coffey	1922-1924 Marian Forman
1908-1909 Addie Patterson	H. A. Mitchell
1910-1912 Ellen Kyle	Clara Peckham
1912 Mary Kyle	1925 M. E. Fogal
1912-1913 Helen McNally	1925-1927 M. E. Lawson
1913-1915 W. G. Manson	1927-1928 W. E. Murray
1915 Ellen Fleming	1928 S. H. Churchill
1915-1916 Belle McLeod	1928-1930 J. H. Marsh
1916-1917 Sigrid Lomness	1930-1931 D. M. Seccombe
1917-1918 Joan MacMillan	1932-1935 G. E. McClintock
1918-1919 Sigrid Lomness	1935-1937 Alyce Kane
1919 Sarah Connolly	1937-1946 Mary Mulick
Mrs. Viola Good	Josephine Mulick
Kenneth Shaver	Stan Jober
Mable Guptell	Stella Krowice
1921 C. E. Moorehouse	

Although today Vermillion Valley School is only another derelict building on the prairies, the school served a vital need in the education of many children. The foresight, the dedication and determination of a few people, like the small group that formed the Vermillion Valley School, is what molded Alberta from a harsh prairie to a prosperous province.

West Bruce School District #3630

About 1917 Bruce decided to organize a consolidated school district taking in east, south and west of Bruce.

The families to the west joined as there was no school for the few children in that area which was sparsely settled. Horse drawn vans were brought in

from southern Alberta where a consolidated school had closed down. One wonders at the thinking of these people as there were no roads and can you imagine travelling over the prairie in these vans and the time they had to leave home to be at school by 9 a.m.? During the winter of 1918 the school was closed because of the flu. Dave Davis, being farthest west in the district, drove the van so Kathleen could finally start school. When winter arrived it was sleighs, foot warmers and blankets as these were severe winters. The last day the van ran, it was late at night when we arrived home as the horses played out. This consolidated district only lasted about two years. After this the children had to get to school the best they could by walking part way, riding with another family, riding horseback or boarding out.

The West Bruce School district comprising a four mile square area, was established 1918 but it wasn't till 1921 the school was built on the S.W. ¼ 33-48-15 and opened on September 1 with Mrs. Volney Church, a farmer's wife, the first teacher. She taught for two years.



West Bruce School.



Back Row: Marion Halvorson, Mr. Grommers — teacher. Centre Row: Ernest McConnel, Vina Halvorson, Mary Davis, Harry Halvorson, Herman Siegel, Virginia Church. Front Row: Irvin Halvorson, Willie Siegel, Mabel Grinde, Irvin Halvorson, Margaret Ham — 1923.

F. BREACH C. Lamb D. Laube	P. O'DOHERTY R. Laube	H. BAGNEY S. Kontrad L. Chabot D. McCloy	S. TOWOWOSKI	G. MARUZESKI S. Stowoski		Wm. KITT C. Twait	C. P. R. B. MAVES R. Farlinger
6		C. P. R. 5		4		C. P. R. 3	
← C.A. CARLSON	S. KONTRAD	JACKSONS	← J. McMULLEN K. Stokowski S. Stokowski	J. ENDZIC DOCHNICK R. Keist	H. STIENWAND	C. P. R. J. YAREM KO J. Miciok	
49-15-4.							
O. FJELLSTROM H. Pozerniuk	C. CHRISTENSON W. Stowoski L. Laube	L. SEIDE N. Komarniski	M. CHOMIK L. Seide	← M. Bobyk	J. BARNIUK	H. HALVORSON H. Stienwand	J. HALVORSON K. Pirie
31		32		33		34	
O. FJELLSTROM H. POZENIUK	P. MARTIN J. Hendel	F. LASKOSKI	J. LASKOSKI Wm. Laskoski B. Nelson	M. GRINDE H. Hrabec	C. HAM A. HAM	C.A. HAM	H. PIRIE
A. BELCOURT Hollars C.E. Wolfe R. Laube	A. OLDBERG 1906 D. DAVIS A. Shehinski S. Komarniski	O. FJELLSTROM B. Fjellstrom N. Laskoski	N. LASKOSKI	L. DALY 1906 H. Fredericks J. Pozerniuk	B. HEATH 1906 M. Grinde H. Hrabec L. Hrabec	O. THOMTIN H. Hrabec	TOM. HALL G. Siegel J. Courchesne O. Thomtin W. Lutz
1906 ← 30		29		28		27	
← A. Bellcourt P. Komarniski M.J. TKACZYK S. Komarniski	J. Keith L. Laube	Wm. Laskoski	Wm. Hall Pirie P. Komarniski	T. HALL 1902 J. Prozniuk	A. HAM	O. THOMTIN W. Lutz	
Mrs. EMERSON W. Schmidt	A. BOBYAK A. Dorin L. Hrabec	A. CARLSON P. Korbay I. Komarniski H. Laude	P.E. BOLEN 1907 V. Church T. Prymo Wm Steffan	R. LUTZ	W. FRISKE ← W. Lutz E. Solstad	W. PORTER R. Lutz	E. SOLSTAD J. Courchesne J. Peterson W. Lutz
C. P. R. 19		20		21		22	
S. KOMARNISKI	C. P. R. EAVA DORIN L. Hrabec	G. KOPANG 1907 P. Komarniski	P.G. BROCKWAY Mrs. F. Church N. Prymo	R. LUTZ	W. LUTZ	W. WYSK L. Willans E. Willans F. Stienwand	A. KRULIKOWIZ E. Willans

WEST BRUCE DIST. No 3630
SCHOOL ● 48-15-4

Map of West Bruce School District #3630.

As no records are to be found, it is hard to put this history together. As far as known, Henry Holvorson was the first chairman and Herman Fredericks the first secretary-treasurer. Herman Fredericks moved to Bruce in 1920, then Charles Ham took over as secretary-treasurer. The older people all moved away and new people moved in.

There was very little social life in the early days, only Christmas concerts and the odd church service.

In those early years very few families lived in the district and most of the land was open prairie. Cattle roamed for miles. As the years went by Mr. Pirie took over as chairman and Leonard Willans as secretary-treasurer, trustees unknown. The last secretary-treasurer to our knowledge was Fred Laskoski.

Teachers boarded at the Pirie home until a teachers' erage was built in later years.

Teachers during the years were: Mrs. Volney

Church, Jean McDonald, G. E. Duncan, L. Grommers, Mrs. Ira Johnson, E. S. Elson, Miss Belamy, R. B. Williams, Miss Stewart, Catherine Smith, Margaret Ham, Margaret Kelly, Grace Bruce, Mary Lind, Domea Stewart, Mr. Roscoe, Stanley Jober, Jerry Popil and Helen Westbrook.

The school operated until the county started bussing the children to Holden. After the school closed



West Bruce School. Pupils collected salvage for the defence department during the war in the early forties.



West Bruce School — 1938. Teacher — Grace Bruce. Back Row: Agnes Komarnisky, Muriel Willans, Katie Stokowski, (?) Komarnisky. Next Row: Gordon Fjellstrom, Walter Stokowski, Annie Froelich, Hilda Giesler, Peter Komarnisky, Joe Lamb, Harriet Fjellstrom, Freda Lamb. Next Row: Agnes Pirie, (?), Helen Komarnisky, Helen Stokowski, Steven Stokowski, Paul Kobylnik, Johnny Stokowski, David Laube. Front Row: Vernon Pirie, Alfred Fjellstrom, (?), Leonard Laube, Eric Lamb, Alvin Chomic, Lorne (Buddy) Fjellstrom.

the teacherage was sold and the school sold to the Holden Legion. It was moved to Holden and is now known as the Legion Hall. All that is left at the old school site is a row of spruce trees.



Back row: Ernest McConnell, Herman Siegel, Art Siegel. Front row: Willie Siegel, Margaret Ham, Mary Davis, Virginia Church in 1924.



Vacation Bible Class at West Bruce School.



Professional Second Class Certificate.

It is hereby Certified that *Miss Carrie Pittand.*
having complied with the conditions prescribed by the Department of Education of the Province of Alberta,
has been awarded a Professional Second Class Certificate of Qualification as a Public School Teacher, valid
during the pleasure of the Department.

Dated at Edmonton this *27th* day of *May*, 1908.

Registered No. *77-08.*

Walter Rutherford
Minister of Education.

Teaching Certificate, 1908.



DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS, 1927.

GRADE VIII.

GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION.

Time—Three hours.

GRAMMAR.

Values.

1. *Within* a short time after the accident occurred, relatives *who* made enquiries were informed by officials that no one had been killed, and that all injured had been removed to the hospital.
It was mere instinct *that* prompted me to do *this*, which was *undoubtedly* the very *best* thing I could have done, for I was too much flurried to think during the excitement.
- 15 (a) From the above passages select *five* subordinate clauses and state the kind and relation of each.
- 6 (b) Select *three* prepositional phrases and give the kind and relation of each.
- 9 (c) Parse the italicised words.
2. Analyse in detail the following sentences:
- 4 (a) Grown in the open field, it surpasses in its odor any strawberry of my acquaintance.
- 4 (b) The story of the circulation of the beef bones among neighboring families to give flavor to the thin bran soup is familiar.
- 4 3. Enlarge these sentences, making them complex sentences:
(a) Seven years ago I stood in this same place.
(b) He returned carrying the board.
- 1 4. What do you understand by "voice" in reference to verbs?
- 2 Illustrate in sentences by the use of the verb "hurt" the change in form to indicate voice and give the name of each form.

[OVER]

Departmental Examinations, 1927.



DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS, 1927.

GRADE VIII.

ARITHMETIC AND MENSURATION.

NOTE: Candidates are required to do only six questions. Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 *must* be included. Candidates will choose between Nos. 6 and 7.

Time—Two hours.

Values.

1. A merchant places an order for goods listed at \$1600. He receives a discount of 10 per cent. for taking a large quantity and a further discount of 5 per cent. for cash.
- 7 (a) What is the cost price of the goods?
- 7 (b) He sells the goods at an advance of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the list price. Find his gain per cent. (to one decimal place).
2. A coal-dealer buys a car-load of coal containing 64,000 lb., which cost him \$3.60 per ton at the mine. He has to pay freight charges of 16c per 100 lb.
- 6 (a) What does the car of coal cost him?
- 6 (b) His customers pay \$9.00 per ton, which includes 50c per ton for delivery. What per cent. profit does the dealer make?
3. Find the cost of:
- 5 (a) digging a cellar 42 ft. long, 28 ft. wide and $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep at 63c per cu. yd.,
- 7 (b) flooring it with $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. lumber costing \$39.00 per M board feet.
4. On Jan. 15th, 1927, James Logan, Tofield, borrowed from the Bank of Montreal the sum of \$325.00. He gave a note for six months bearing interest at 8 per cent.
- 4 (a) Write the note.

[OVER]

Departmental Examinations, 1927.

Transportation



Mrs. Bertha Chetney holding Helen and Elmer, 1921.



Logan's school horse and buggy. Pat Fleming and Melvin Carlson in the buggy.



Carlson's school pony and cart. Lily Carlson and Norma Mohs in the cart.



Lewis and Ferdinand Forre in the convertible top buggy in 1911. Can now be seen in the Stan Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin.



Inga Chetney, Bertha Logan and Gladys, Helga Burnstad, Mrs. Ogard and Laverne, ready to go to Ladies Aid.



A fancy means of winter transportation in the '20's for Conrad Giebelhaus.



Erwin Erhardt and Bill Rempis in front of Griffin's house in 1925 or 26.



A McLaughlin Buick believed to be before 1918 model.



Ed Logan's Overland, '20s model.



John Semotiuk by his "caboose". This was a built-in sled with a small stove, drawn by horses.



Lewis Forre's first car, a 1924 model being used by grandson Dwayne on his wedding day.



Joseph Carlson in his 1918 Chevrolet.



Otto Hurum's 1926 Ford coupe.



Edward Christianson's 1927 Buick truck. Uddo Johansson, unknown, Ed Christianson, Karl Hoffman.



Harry Bilyk's '28 Essex.



1928 Chevrolet belonging to William Olson. Herb and Art in the car with Harry in front.



Anton Semchyshen's Erskine car.



George Trohimchuk in his Chevrolet car with Walter sitting.



Jim Cadger's 1928 Model A Ford. Standing: Annabelle, Beatrice and Walter.



1935 Ford belonging to Kost Chrystian.



Leonard and Bill Nelson on horseback, 1918.



Outing for an afternoon of sports. Foreast and Minor Wohl, Laura Christianson, Mrs. John Wohl and ?.



The Morning Local (notice drag).



Victor Marriage and cousin in front of Marriage's home.

Recollections

Retrospective Reflections Of Our Pioneers

As we slowly climb on and reach the summit of
Life's golden Hill,
We pause to relax, look back, What a thrill!
For a view of surroundings, is filled with the past,
The courage and trials of you, our pioneers, from
the first to the last.

You got off at a station with only strangers to greet
And looked for a place to eat, rest and sleep.
Then in the morning, with faith hope and love
Went to find that little homestead, you could be
proud of.

Then later that evening on a long divided bend,
You made your decision, this would be journey's
end,
For here by a creek bed, with trees for firewood,
You chose that lovely place for a cabin, where
none had yet stood.

Your shelters were built, though crude in erection,
They gave for a time that needed protection
With doors open wide, for strangers to come in;
Those shy twinkling eyes say all are welcome
within.

Now, back to the station, for family and chattels,
Trailing behind were those few head of cattle.
The toils of the day were many and varied
As starting anew had a load to be carried.

You turned the first furrow in that deep virgin soil,
Your plow pulled by oxen, as slowly you toiled
For the beginnings were heavy, with so little pay,
But you had made the long journey, hoping to stay.

You sowed your first crop in hand broadcast
fashion,
Then in the fall, with scythe and flail, you did the
threshing.
Now a rail line came in, 'twas the Grand Trunk
Pacific
The little town grew, and less of your needs would
be missing.

The merchants' stores opened, such service to
give,
Playing their roles in supplying your few thrills.
The blacksmith's hammer rang on his heavy anvil
there,
As the sweat poured off his brow, and dripped from
his hair.

Soon your schools were selected, and churches not
a few,
For each found a need to worship in their own
familiar pew.
Thanks! many of these monarchs still mark our
country view
As they dot the landscape of our famous pioneer
crew.

You knew the darkness; the pain of a raging prairie
fire,
The darkness of depression years, no money for
new attire,
The darkness of a stormy cloud, when hail used all
its power,
The darkness of a lonely day, that first grave, those
heavy hours.

Then you knew the beauty of a sunrise, sunset and
all,
The beauty of the rain that fell, in springtime or in
fall,
The beauty of the wild flowers, of song birds, and
the trees,
The beauty of so many things that we can hardly
see.

Your faith to see a future, your hope of going on,
Gave a greater love for living, added freedom for a
song.
Then came a little time for giving, and even time
to smile,
And with faith, hope and charity, you made your
lives worthwhile.

Ezra Eberhart

Memories of Pleasant Ridge

by Viola Good

Pleasant Ridge! I've always loved the name and pleasant are its memories to me.

My father, George Story, a college man, was on the school board until the School Division was organized. Under his leadership, the people by voluntary labor, had a school in 1904. The men drove seventy miles to Wetaskiwin with horses to haul the lumber. It was just another trip for them as this was where we got all our groceries, clothing and other needs. Some of the farmers including my father, had to go this distance with oxen as many horses died of swamp fever.

As the schoolhouse was used for church services I was quite familiar with it when I started school, as I knew the lady, Lottie Brisbin, who played the organ would be my teacher. I knew many words by sight and wanted to learn to read. My mother had covered the walls of the attic where four of us children slept with brown wrapping paper and many copies of the "Camrose Canadian" to keep out draughts. We kept pestering our mother to tell us "this word" and "that word". "Lumber" was a word always coming up and I even learned how to spell it. At that time it must have been an important commodity.

But I dreaded going to school! Mother was away in a private hospital as there were no municipal hospitals at that time. We had a Mrs. King as house-keeper and we didn't like her. For every misdemeanor she would threaten to send me to school. I thought I must be a very bad girl as Clarence and Hattie were already in school and hadn't got into any trouble. To add to my fear, our big cousins Wilbur and Ellsworth, who stopped by on their way from school, would threaten to throw four year old Lester into the rain barrel. They told me that when I went to school I'd better be good or else the teacher would shove me up into the attic, which was occupied by bugs, bats, mice and other horrors. I believed it all. However, when I was six I had to go to school in spite of my fears.

I walked one mile with Clarence and Hattie. We put our coats and bonnets on hooks in the cloak room. One side was for the girls and the other side for the boys. Hattie and I put ours on the girls' side. Here we put our lard pails in which we carried our lunches.

Mother told me I must sit near the front because I was hard of hearing. When I was three a seige of measles had left me with a perforated ear drum. Hattie and I chose our seats and put our slates inside the homemade double desk. There was a groove on our desk into which our pencils just fitted. We had a slate cloth and a salt shaker with water to use in cleaning our slates. Some of the slates were bound

with red felt which pleased the teacher as they were less noisy. The teacher's desk, also homemade, stood on a raised platform. On the walls were bracket coal oil lamps used for any evening gatherings in the school.

On the table were two bells, one hand bell which the teacher used to call us in from play, and the other a little bell which she tapped, usually three times to get our attention. Then she would say, "Less noise, children, less noise."

The girls wore cotton dresses, black stockings, and under their dresses bloomers sometimes made from flour sacks. The older girls wore pinafores. Hair was long and braided in "pigtails", tied with ribbons. These long braids were a great temptation to the boys. They would quietly tie two girls' braids together just before recess dismissal. When the two girls stood up at the teacher's call, they would pull each other's hair and the boys would laugh. Another trick was to dip the braids in the inkwells.

Boys didn't dress up much, usually they wore farm overalls and farm boots. Sometimes they went barefoot.

Miss Lottie Brisbin, our teacher was from Ontario. I tried very hard to be good remembering the attic story. When the room became hot she would push the attic door to one side with the broom handle. I watched to see who would be put up there, but as this happened many times and no one was put up there, I breathed with relief. The boys had been fooling me! Now I could be happy in school!

What a joy was the school library, many many books contained in the bookcases made up of sectional pieces. I don't know how we came to have such a collection of good books but think it must have been by donations by interested people. I have wanted to get some of those books since but have not been able to find them even in second hand stores. Some of my favorites were Aunt Martha's Corner Cupboard, which took us around the world, Wretched Flea, The Story of a Chinese Boy, and Goody Two Shoes. There were two volumes of Golden Oak Books which I enjoyed.

My first reader was an Ontario Reader. They were used until the Alexandra Readers came in. I didn't wait for the day by day reading lesson. I read my reader through as soon as it was given to me. All our readers were free and were ours to keep. Later we had Primer and Books I to IV in the Alexandra Readers. We did not have grades but were divided into standards from one to five. We did a lot of memory work and most of it I remember to this day.

Alberta became a province in 1905. I remember the map of Canada as it hung on the wall of our school. Our province was smaller and Manitoba was

just a postage stamp. Pictures of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra were on the other side of the blackboard and over all was the Union Jack.

Miss Brisbin played the organ for half an hour of singing every day. We used the Canadian Hymnal books left on the organ from the church services. I have one of them today. We were very patriotic and never missed The Maple Leaf Forever and God Save the King.

On Friday afternoons our teacher varied the school program with singing, recitations, readings and sometimes riddles from the pupils. There might even be a short play.

Our schools were not so closely supervised as they are today. We were expected to behave even if the teacher wasn't around. She usually went home for lunch and left us on our own. We left the school-grounds and went wading in the nearby sloughs if someone suggested it. In the winter we would slide on the ice as no one had skates. If the boys got into a fight the teacher would let them fight it out and they would be friends the next day. But Miss Brisbin was firm about bad language. Woe betide anyone who used profanity or foul language! Then the strap in her desk came out and she knew how to use it. She was strict but she was just and we respected her.

One method of raising money for the treats and presents was the basket social. Every woman and girl had a basket of food to tempt the appetite of her supper companion. There was no name on the beautifully decorated basket as no man was to know whose basket he was bidding on. The name would be inside the basket. When they were auctioned off they went to the highest bidder. There was much competition among the young men as they were sometimes very sure they would eat with their chosen girl but were often bitterly disappointed.

When I was only seven I had a basket which went to Miss Brisbin's steady young man. I'm sure he was disappointed to have to share with a little girl instead of his Lottie. But he was very kind to me and I was very shy.

Our teacher's young man owned land next to the school with a house near. One day as I was being chased in some wild game, I ran into the barb wire fence which separated his land from the school land. It hit me hard right in the face and blood streamed into my eyes and down my face blinding me. I ran about crying. Soon I felt strong arms enfolding me as I was carried into Albert Stewart's house. He washed the blood from my face and soothed my wounded spirit.

Miss Brisbin taught several years in Pleasant Ridge and then married Albert Stewart. We collected money and gave her a very special lamp with a

flowered shade. After her marriage we had a city girl, Miss Crow, who stayed for one term only. She was followed by a Miss Gerry.

The time came when Pleasant Ridge was no more. A town by the name of Holden had sprung up and a new two roomed brick school was built. I then went to Holden (as it is called now) Junior High School.

The Pleasant Ridge schoolhouse was sold for a dwelling. It had served a purpose. It had given a generation of boys and girls a wonderful background of learning and character building.

Holden in the 40's and 50's

by Peter P. Blake

Holden was a bustling little town on Highway 14 between Edmonton and Wainwright. It was a progressive town and people took great pride in it. Because of this, homes were neat, in good repair and newly painted. It was a "stand out town" on the highway.

The Gas Line Hockey League was made up of teams from Tofield, Ryley, Holden, Viking and Irma. It was so named because of the gas line from the Viking field supplying natural gas to towns along the line into Edmonton. Gaslights on streets and in buildings was a common sight in these towns. There was one in the lobby of the hotel. These lights were simply a mantle — a conelike network of material that would not burn, which fit somewhat like a cap over a flame and gave light by glowing at a high temperature.

Being manager of the team at that time also meant that you supplied free transportation for the team as well as all their equipment to the various towns for weekly games.

All these hockey games were played in open air rinks. The spectators lined up outside along the board fences standing in the snow. Of course they got cold, but between periods they could go into the shack where everybody crowded around a pot-bellied stove to warm up.

John's Hudson Sedan was well loaded down every trip. The fact that temperatures could be 10° to 40° below zero, the highway a gravel road, and very often drifted with snow was no excuse. The games must go on. It was common to run into well packed snow drifts on the road anywhere and up to three feet deep. Drifts could be several feet to several hundred feet wide. A car simply could not break through the deeper drifts even after repeated rammings. Out of the car would pile our players, shovel a path through the snow for the wheels, then get behind the car and push it through the snow. Returning home after the

game, the process was very likely repeated, for by now the drifting snow would have filled in the shovelled out path.

Further various services were needed as the town and population increased. Dr. L. Mason was encouraged to set up a practice. Dr. A. Nay came to town a day or two a week to do dentistry. Dr. S. Siegel was the next physician for several years, followed by Dr. R. Calo who built up a wonderful practice before moving to Boston. Mr. A. Greenwood bought out the Stewart Drugs and built a new drugstore across the street. Mr. E. Bilyk became our local postmaster having purchased the new and modern post office building and residence from Mr. R. Stewart. More general stores and service stations, implement dealers, a chop mill, and a Provincial Treasury Branch were established in town.

A Holden Health Clinic was located in town: this tended to residents' needs but mainly to the school population of the Holden School District. The clinic was usually staffed by a doctor and a couple of nurses. Some clinic staff were Dr. Wright, Dr. Cuts, and nurses Mrs. Humber, Miss Andrews, Miss Murray, Miss Fodchuk, Miss Milner, Miss Wilson and Mrs. Adams.

The hotel was a central meeting place — and not just over suds. There was always an office space or work room available. Mr. J. Decore, later J. Koshuta, lawyers both, visited our town working out of the hotel. Kinsmen held their dinner meetings here. The dentist had a working room. Art lessons, music lessons and various meetings were accommodated gladly. We always provided a room and meals for visiting clergy.

In 1942, we saw a real need to expand and modernize our hotel operation. (I was now a shareholder of the hotel.) Our plan was to cut the building in two. Living and operating the business from the front half, we tore down and rebuilt the rear half over a deeper and enlarged basement. When this was done, the front end was then rebuilt. This new structure was a two storey building.

A septic tank and disposal field were built which would allow us the pleasures of flush toilets and running water. These amenities were the first in a commercial building in Holden. These modern facilities were much favoured by the commercial trade, and frequently much enjoyed by the locals as well. I should add that the water for the hotel system came from our well in the basement, pumped into a cistern and pressure tank which fed the entire building. There were 24 renting rooms, four with bath, a five-room suite for John and Kay and a four-room suite for Peter and Betty. Of course, there were licensed premises that could seat 250, a coffee shop and dining

room. There were ten flush toilets throughout the building and running water in every room. The building was heated by steam, fired by gas.

The town council now realized the need for modern fire fighting equipment. A brand new red fire engine was purchased. Holden's first fire engine with all controls and hoses, and of course a real, loud, eerie siren which delighted all the youngsters in town. This necessitated a fire hall to house this new equipment — a new fire hall was built.

The town of Holden was progressing in every respect slowly — a lack of good water was checking its progress. Test holes were drilled down to one thousand feet, an underground lake was discovered but unfortunately it was alkaline and salt water. Surveyors were hired to survey the district and propose a plan to supply the town with a good water supply. The area surveyed was south of Holden which sloped naturally to the north — towards town. When the survey was completed, it was recommended that surface — run-off water be gathered and stored for the town's needs. In the early spring the first thaws start running down towards lower levels which are sloughs in fields or pastures. With a little trenching or ditching, these built-up sloughs would release their waters to run in rivulets toward the lower levels. Repeating this process of ditching and releasing the waters over a span of miles, we have a flow of water heading in the intended direction and ending up in a holding pond or reservoir just south of town.

This reservoir was dredged out and deepened so that it would not freeze up in the winter. From here the water was piped, treated (chlorinated), and pumped into a water tank built atop a tower located on the high spot in town. From this tank, thanks to gravity, good water is piped into residences and establishments throughout the town. The locals claimed to be privileged with a supply of pasteurized water, supplied by the Holden waterworks system — sure, it was pasteurized — it had come through nineteen pastures on its way to town!

A liquor store would enhance our town, it was felt. Accordingly overtures were made to the government, but it was learned that our neighboring towns were also making representations. As a matter of fact, the store was earmarked for one of our nearby towns. John Blake being vice-president of the Alberta Hotel Association, was in frequent and friendly contact with officers of the Alberta Liquor Control Board and in due course, he persuaded the liquor board to change its mind and put a store in our town. A government liquor store was accordingly built at Holden on a lot supplied by John Blake.

Although numerically Holden was a small town, its people were great. We shall forever cherish many

pleasant memories. John and I are extremely grateful and proud that during the nineteen years we lived at Holden, to have contributed in a small way to its past history.

Some Recollections (1923-26)

by A. A. Aldridge

Holden as I knew it was an interesting, thriving town with a fine spirit of cooperation and togetherness often found in communities. Everyone seemed to enjoy his role and showed a willingness to participate in any way that he could. The school was a two roomed affair, and though I was listed as principal I really was little more than the senior teacher. During the first two years of my three, Judith Ellingson had the primary room. She later married Jim Third, who with his brother Clayton, operated the drug store and post office. Her place was taken by Ardena Baker. The school had up to grade ten, with grades above six in the senior room. During the first year I had three students in grade ten: Sanford Sorgen, later to become my brother-in-law, Ann Follinsbee and John McLeod. Ann later taught high school for many years in Honolulu and is now retired there. John and I often have lunch together at Edmonton Northeast Rotary Club. (His and Sanford's stories are elsewhere in this book.)

Organized sports played an important part in the Holden of those years. We even tried soccer, with the strong support and participation of Bob Emond, Dave McAfee, Kenny James and Geo. H. Taylor. I made an effort to help out, having played soccer in Edmonton during my school years. We also had a two sheet curling rink, adjacent to the open air skating rink. Hockey occupied an important niche, since it was possible to get games with Ryley and Viking. However the big event was the annual challenge to Wainwright to play for the Dawson Trophy. We had to make the trip to Wainwright by train, play the game, and stay overnight. In 1926, with the help of a faithful few in our cheering section, we won the cup. That was almost a unique experience, and considerable pride and joy resulted therefrom.

The young ladies of the community played basketball, with George Black as coach. The court was dirt with plenty of dust. As I look back over the snapshots of years I appreciate how practical the bloomers and blouses were for the environment in which they played.

Of course, the big day each year was the Annual Sports Day, with baseball, soccer, basketball, races and jumps, occupying the sports grounds from early morning until dark. The young ladies and their male helpmates provided soft drinks, ice cream, hot dogs, gum and candy in the booth, the proceeds of which

went a long way towards paying the costs of the prizes offered to the various teams. A dance in the evening wound up an important day in the lives of Holdenites and their district friends. Prohibition was in force but the lack of liquid refreshment did not seem to have any effect upon the gaiety of the festivities.

A Scout Troop was organized in the winter months of 1924 and we went to camp at Miquelon Lake early in July. When transportation was available the lake was a popular summer resort area. Speaking of transportation, the "Tin Lizzie" of the day could be kept running if sufficient bailing wire was handy. It was a good car with its side curtains that flapped in the wind; they kept out much of the rain. A few early Chevs were around. An interesting thing about this car was that it did not have a car key as we know it today, but a button that fitted into a receptacle in the dash. When we experienced a flat tire we jacked up the car, or had the strong man in the crowd lift up the rear or front axle of the Ford, put a wooden block under it, take the tire off the rim, blow it up (if the pump worked), remove the block or jack and we went on our way again. Sounds simple but it was hard on clean clothes and impossible in mud.

In the fall of 1923 natural gas came through Holden from Viking, as the pipeline proceeded to Edmonton. It generated a great deal of interest, expense in installing the gas lines in homes, and even the odd explosion. Lights were provided by gas in the form of mantles suspended from pipes. The mantle had to be burned first, then carefully lit. The slightest touch would break the mantle once it had been burned.

Late in the fall, Gordon Brown, who was working for the gas company, went down to the pumping station near the railroad station to check on the meter in use to mark gas pressure. Somehow gas was escaping and a violent explosion and fire did damage to the pumping station and burned Gordon rather badly.

Businesses in operation at that time included the Royal Bank, which always seemed to provide young men interested in baseball or hockey. The goalkeeper of the team that won the Dawson Cup was Reece Hughes, accountant at the bank. Myer Black with his sons George and Abie, operated a general store. Other members of the family who were in school at that time were Harry, Sam and Annie, who now live in Edmonton. The other general store was operated by Dad and Mom Osborne, a grand couple somewhat on in years but the life of any picnic they went on. They sold the store in 1924 to Larson and Liden, with T. A. Liden operating it. He and his family were important members of the community for many years.

The hardware at that time was run by Hugh McAfee. He was chairman of the school board and much interested in education. Real estate seemed to fit in with the insurance business and school and town secretaryships that Alex Brown held. His children Rena, Doug and Dorothy were also in school. Dorothy still lives in Edmonton. Mr. Follinsbee ran the poolroom and barbershop. There were two or three implement agencies and, I believe, four elevators. The creamery operated by Burns came into operation in 1924. Each summer they had a student acting as cream tester. One year it was Neil Primrose who later became Mr. Justice Primrose. He is the father of Canada's trap shooting champion.

It is a mistake really to name the students since some of course will not be included but my recollections are in the main happy and to a degree satisfying. I think of people such as one of the committee responsible for producing this history, Pearl Allan (nee Crimmin), of Art Story, Evelyn Grosland, Richard Farrell, Tommy Skakum, Beth Brown, Frank Stewart, Annie Pasnak, Marusieczkas and of those already mentioned in this outline; these are but a few of those who were "educated" in the little two-room schoolhouse on the hill. Brr! It was really cold on that long walk from town.

Perhaps one other item should be mentioned. In the school year 1924-25 the teachers in the rural schools, such as Palmer, Vermillion Valley and Talbot joined with us in town to arrange purchase of a 16mm motion picture projector from the Department of Extension in order to provide something in the way of motion pictures. The films were not of the best, but they did offer the only opportunity of seeing movies. Admission charges were 10¢ for children and 25¢ for adults. We made enough out of the showings to pay for the machine and the film rentals. We had many experiences, both good and bad, such as film breakages during the showing, instant (?) repairs to get the show going again; batteries giving out and substitutions from car batteries of those in attendance; blocked roads in winter and spring. We carried on for the best part of two years. Paul Thomas then teaching at Palmer, was one of the stalwarts who kept the projector going.

It was an enjoyable three years for me, especially as I found my wife in Holden. Emma Sorgen and I were married in 1925 and have been together now for more than 56 years.

Memories of Holden

by Orlough Paul Thomas

My first stay in Holden was when I was a teacher at Palmer School. I think the two most embarrassing times I can remember were the first day I taught there

and at the end of the year. I started in 1924. That was a bad year for farming, from the standpoint of prices. As I had not been paid for some months before this I had not been able to buy any new clothes. The suit I had was getting pretty thin in spots and was not too safe. About ten minutes before the bell in the morning, I saw a paper in the aisle and reached down to pick it up. As I did this I felt the seat of my pants disintegrate. For the rest of the day I had to write on the board with my back to the board and try to get it across my shoulder. It was an excruciating day. Believe me, it was some way to start out in a new school!

I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Hans Huseby. Although this was a very nice place to live I later moved to be closer to school. Lillian Huseby and Opal Sorgen were two really fine students and it was a pleasure to have them in my class. Some other former pupils that I have seen since are Henry Huseby, Harrington Mohler, Harry Johnson, Connie Bratrud and Sherman Forre. Ebba, Esben and Carl Sorensen I remember more at home than at school, as it was at the Sorensens that I learned to play Norwegian whist. Pete used to tell me about the days when he had the livery barn in Holden.



Mildred and Paul Thomas, Stuart and Elaine.

While I was at Husebys I had a chance to learn something about strip mining by taking trips with them on weekends to the Burnstad Coal Mine to get coal or to haul grain to the Poe elevator.

Shortly after I came to Palmer I got acquainted with Hartvig Sorgen. We went to a party in a cutter. At lunch time when they asked me if I would like coffee, I agreed, and they asked me if I liked cream and sugar, which I assured them I did. I was quite surprised when I took a swallow to find that instead of

sugar they had put salt in my coffee. Thinking it was a joke on this stranger, I quietly slipped out the door and poured it out in the snow. Then I went to the kitchen to get another cup. I carefully poured the coffee myself, and put in the cream and sugar, and started to drink it. It was salty once again. I questioned and found that a lot of the water they had on their farms around Holden was salty. Some of them had a good laugh at my innocence.

Landsdowne Shaw from Scona School and I were both interested in sports in our schools. As friendly rivals we had our boys play ball against each other on different occasions. The Palmer boys usually won. One night we had a pie social at Scona School, and I found when I got there they had appointed me auctioneer. I had only done this once before, but when the results were counted they said I did as well as they usually had done before. Also I knew whose pie I wanted and governed myself accordingly.

During the spring it was customary in all schools to celebrate Arbour Day. Usually, the girls came with their aprons, and the boys came with their work clothes and we cleaned the school and school yard. One evening I got a call from the teacher at Sandstorm School, Mr. Cameron. He was rather upset. It seems that when they had most of the yard cleaned up, they were raking around the barn. Someone lit a fire to burn off the weeds. A gust of wind came along and the fire jumped to the barn. So, he wondered what he should do as his barn had burned down.

There was quite a bit of moonshine around this district while prohibition was in effect so a lot of people made their own brew and sold it. Most of it was liquor that was very clear, like vodka, made from wheat and potatoes. Those who wanted to drink would buy a bottle or two of this, which was usually in pop bottles and sold for a dollar or two dollars a bottle. One day Bob Morrison, a policeman from Tofield, was making a call at a house in this area where a lady was making moonshine. She had a new brew in a pail inside the door of the kitchen, when she looked out and saw the policeman coming in at the gate. Very resourcefully, she put the mop in the pail and when he got to the door she was scrubbing the floor. With the smell so evident, he said nothing after looking around, and was amused to see her wasting good moonshine, however she missed a costly trip before the magistrate.

I used to drive into town quite often with a truck I borrowed from Lanny Shaw. I would teach music on Saturday, lead the choir on Sunday and go out Sunday evening. At that time there were a number of the boys around town who were unattached, and they decided to rent the upstairs over the hardware store. There was Hap Aldridge, the principal of Holden

School, Tom White, the lawyer, Dad Harris, who worked in McAfee's Hardware, another younger chap from Viking who also worked there, Lanny Shaw and McGillvray who worked at the Royal Bank. I was invited to stay with them as a weekend bachelor. We had some fine times there. Several Sunday mornings were made interesting when Gordon Brown's little son came up with his dog. Usually the little dog had his face full of porcupine quills. Well, we got a system going to handle the situation. We would go down into the hardware store which had a pipeless furnace with squares in the register. My job was to place a pitchfork over the dog's head, so the tines went down into the squares and I would hold his head down this way. Tom White would get the pliers and extract the quills. A couple of the others would hold him down so he did not squirm too much. For several Sundays this was the routine job. When I lacked the truck I would walk in on Friday after school and walk out on Sunday evening. I got so I was able to walk generally a mile in twelve minutes.

Shortly after school opened in the fall, I bought a one tube DeForrest-Crossley radio from Hugh McAfee. When I got home to Sam Johnson's, we ran an aerial from the platform on the windmill down to the peak of the house. Our reception there was remarkably good. Of course, being the first radio in the country it was used a lot and we had a great deal of company in to listen to it.

This winter came in quite decently but while we were getting ready to put on a Christmas concert we had a spell of 57 to 60 below zero for a week — the second week in December. That week only two of us showed up for school, Connie Bratrud who put on the furnace each morning, and yours truly. We had been planning a concert and having all the pupils take part. With this weather though, that had to be changed. With the short time we had left I picked out the best of each grade and several adults helped us put on a play which really needed a busy prompter. To finish it off I got a picture for the occasion and, as I had bought nuts and candy we went ahead. Santa made his appearance, too. It was awful. I have had many concerts during my 47 years of teaching but this one was the worst. As I had been offered another school near Kingman, I resigned and moved. So with these two embarrassments, one at the start of the year, and one at the end, I finished my days at Palmer.

After leaving Palmer, I was the first bachelor of the "Batch" to get married. I married Mildred Carter, whom I had first met when I used to go to Moyer's School Supplies where she worked. Shortly after, another bachelor fell by the wayside, Tom White married Betty McAllister from Mundare. To celebrate their wedding properly Tom broke out with the

measles. The following August, Happy and Emma Sorgen were married, so, our batch broke up. Speaking of the batch there is one memory which I still have and some of you old timers may remember. It was usual for the Lutheran Ladies' Aid to put on a turkey supper in the fall. That day I had to go to Edmonton and returned on the train too late to participate. Later, during the night I discovered that all the batch had been spending the night going up and down the back stairs most of the night for real emergencies. It seems that at the dinner the night before they had run out of coffee and there was no water to be had. One lady was able to find some water though, so things went ahead. It was found that the water came from Dr. Farrell's well. To any of you living in Holden you can understand the hustle — Dr. Farrell's well was loaded with Epsom salts.

I came back to Holden in 1930 as principal of Holden School. Mildred and I had a family of Elaine — 4 years old and Stuart — 3 years old. We got a house from Even Olsen and lived there for a year. Our neighbours were Even Olsens on the west and east of us Bob Newells. Just beyond them were Rev. and Mrs. MacPherson, Ronola and Mac, and then the old timer who used to tell us about Malta, Mr. Stokes, and his wife. I was always interested to see my neighbor Mr. MacPherson going to the town pump for water for his cow. He and I would have a good discussion on the latest things in science. Usually our conversation got too long for his wife as Mrs. MacPherson would quietly come along and take the pail of water for the cow. Ronola was on my staff at Holden. Another one of my teachers at that time was Isabella Briggs. She married a man from Ryley, who was the son of the hotel proprietor, Mr. Bairnes. They moved to Cavanaugh where they had a ranch. I think they are now in Leduc.

Across from the school lived Myer Black and his family. Annie loved to swing on the maypole. She used to go over in the evenings and play there. She could fly away higher than any of the other children. One night she lost her grip on the chain and flew through the air with the greatest of ease, but in doing so she broke her arm. Another thing I recall about Annie was the way she used to turn cart wheels on main street. Everyone got quite a bit of fun watching her do this.

In many ways, it was like coming back home, to return to Holden. Milly had played basketball with the girls from Tofield against the girls from Holden. When I saw the picture on the brochure about this book, I got a laugh at the girls with their bloomer suits. I can well remember the shock the Grads gave Edmonton when they came out in their shorts. Later when we moved to the Farrell house we were next

door to Myron Appleby, who was a favorite with our children.

There were so many in Holden that we knew and it was always happy times we had together. I will always remember Mrs. Mumford and how good she was to us who were newcomers to Holden. Jimmy and Clayton Third were another couple of young men whom I had known before I left the city. Before we moved back to Holden in 1930, the Thirds sold their drug store to Mr. Williams. Eventually Mr. Williams sold out to Ray Stewart and he and his wife, Rita came to live here.

In 1930 a number of citizens thought it would be nice to have a golf course so one was built just west of the cemetery. There were many stones where it was created. When I had gone out teaching I had not been in a place where there was a golf course, so this looked like a heaven-sent opportunity to get back at the game. I enjoyed one or two outings. After lending my clubs to several of my friends to use, and having them returned in less than good condition, I decided to give up the game.

There were many friendly get-togethers of various kinds. I suppose there are not too many names that ring a bell with those who are here now. Bill Fleming, with his family, had just returned to Holden as manager of the Royal Bank. Bill and I had a similar craving for chocolates, so after school I would go down town and call in at the drug store, where I usually found Bill. We would get a supply of chocolates and go over to his office and visit and eat chocolates. There was Hugh McAfee, and Alex and Mrs. Brown with whom we had many nice times. Among others I recall Sherman Forre, who was with the Royal Bank, Al and Mrs. Stewart and her mother Mrs. Brisbin, the Lidens, Kenny and Mrs. James, the Edworthys, Lily and Mrs. Christensen, Frank and Mrs. Breach, who was so interested in writing, Mrs. Mumford and Gladys (Mrs. Dad Harris), Dr. and Mrs. Farrell, Even Olson who was good enough to let me curl on his rink sometimes, and Bob and Mrs. Newell.

One memory I have of Holden was the peculiar odour of licorice which used to waft across town at different times each week. I discovered it came from a farmer's buildings across the railway tracks. On enquiry I found out he used to make moonshine and that was where the smell was coming from. He had a regular customer in town and I found out about it quite accidentally. I used to help a certain gentleman in town with his books. One day while working I noticed a hand come in the door at the back of the place of business and withdraw a couple of pop bottles. A little while later, I heard a noise, and the door was carefully opened and in came a hand with a

bottle filled to replace the one he had taken away. Some people have milk deliveries, but here it was moonshine.

At that time the School Inspector was Mr. Owen Williams. During his stay at Vegreville he had organized the music festivals. These continued for some time and our pupils did very well at these festivals.

Mildred liked it in Holden very much because she had so many friends there. She took part in such activities as curling, bridge and ladies' aid. At that time I was studying for my degree and to get more assistance I would go to the University on weekends and come home on Sunday. Since Ryley was a flag stop for the train, Milly would drive over to meet me there. One Sunday as she went to get the car out of the garage she found that one of the tires was flat. She proceeded to change the tire even though it was very cold out. Our good neighbor, Bob Newell was watching her out the kitchen window and when she got through came out to tell her how he had watched to see if she could do it. That, of course, made her really grateful for his solicitation.

About the time we got to Holden they had brought out drivers' licenses for all drivers. Bob did not think his wife needed one until she had learned to drive well. After returning from a weekend away, Bob dropped off at the creamery while she drove home with the kids. As she drove along, Jimmy Carr, an R.C.M.P. put up his hand for her and she waved back in a friendly manner. Shortly after she arrived at home he came along and asked her for her driver's licence. The next scene took place a few days later in Bob Emond's office as he was the J.P. She was fined for not having a licence and Bob (Newell) fully expressed himself about what he thought of the R.C.M.P. and Jimmy in particular. Shortly after this while at a dance in Ryley, Jimmy asked Mrs. Newell to dance.

The students that I had in Holden were among the best I ever had. Elmer Logan went on to study law at the U. of A. Others I recall were Johnny Ritland, who passed away at a young age, Jackie Good, who now lives in California, Elsie Kennedy, Pauline Wynnyk, lived near Hay Lakes. Eleanor Erickson, now Mrs. Blair, and her husband live in Sherwood Park, also Clara Beckwith (nee Johnson). Vera Olsen I believe lives in Kamloops, Sid and Bert Edworthy have disappeared from my ken. Abner Logan I understand is in the Okanagan. I remember Olive and Phillip Connolly, Neil Bosomworth, and a quiet conscientious lad, Edgar Curtis. I was sorry to learn of the death of Harold Mohs. Hans Christensen is in Tofield, Melvin Olson was a quiet but conscientious worker. Others were Anna, Harold and Norman Par-

sons, Harry Michlich, Alvin Kjosness, Atlanta Logan, Christine Albrecht, Gordon Moore and Grace Saboe. Another young lady with whom I became acquainted was Pearl Crimmin. She and Gladys Ames boarded with my mother-in-law, Mrs. Carter. She also had a younger sister, Mary.

Just beside the United Church in Holden was a sandy hill which was a perfect breeding ground for garter snakes. One Sunday, when our children came back from Sunday School they were telling us about the snake that had got in on the cement retaining wall on the ledge above the floor of the basement. They were having their class and their teacher was Miss Isabella Briggs. Whether she knew it or not I have not been able to find out, but one of these snakes reared it's ugly head above her and the question in the minds of the youngsters was whether it was going to fall on her or not. As she never mentioned it to me, I think it was a secret between the snake and the pupils.

The years I was in Holden were depression years. Sometimes I wonder how we ever got through them. I was on a salary so was considered in a better position than the farmers. Some interesting things happened to the teachers in those days. One advertisement I recall was for a young lady who would be in by nine o'clock every evening. Another wanted a principal, one who would purchase all his food and necessities in the stores in town. In other places it was not unusual for a teacher to be dismissed because he had purchased a car which was more expensive than one which a member of the board owned. One Saturday morning a friend who lived east of town came in. He brought a humpty-dumpty (12 doz.) case of eggs and asked Mildred if we liked eggs. When she assured him we did, he told her that here was a case of eggs he was giving her. He had gone to the stores and each had offered him 3½¢ a dozen in trade. He said he would rather smash them all than let them go for that price. Eventually, we agreed to get our eggs for 5¢ a dozen in CASH. Wheat was about 19¢ a bushel for #2 Northern, butter 15¢ a pound, milk 3¢ a quart in the summer and 7¢ a quart in the winter. We used to get Jersey milk for 5¢ a quart the year round. It was interesting, too, to find that the eggs for which the storekeeper gave 3½¢ in trade, cost us in town 10¢ a dozen, while travellers coming in bought them at two dozen for 25¢.

Another student of mine was Eddie Stewart. His promotion in the R.C.A.F. was to be expected, but it was a very bad shock when he lost his life flying from Minot to southern Saskatchewan. Frank Stewart, to the best of my knowledge, was working in Camrose. They were fine boys and real friends and their loss cannot be made up.

Mr. Lake was my first caretaker in Holden, but

when he retired John Thieme took over. John and I were leading choirs in the Lutheran and United churches, respectively. One of the difficulties was balancing of the voices. I had more tenors and sopranos than he had and he had more altos and basses than I did. On different occasions when we wanted to put on special music, we would combine our choirs and thus alleviate the difficulties. It was a pleasant experience and the members enjoyed it as well.

One Sunday afternoon we had quite a bit of excitement in town as the fire department was called to fight a fire at Tom White's residence. He and Betty had gone for a drive in the country and while they were away, the radio caught fire, and the wall was burning when it was discovered. At that time the radios from the U.S. were not supplied with safety condensers which were required in Canada. Tom was a bit upset over the fire, and, if you recall his vocabulary, was most expressive of his agitation.

We always looked upon Holden as a special place. It was a good school and the board was really fine in any dealings I had with it. So to any of you who remember Mildred, Elaine, Stuart and me, all the best. Mildred was, unfortunately ill for ten years in the hospital before she passed away in 1975, a few months after our 50th anniversary.

Elaine married a sailor who became a building superintendent of low temperature and pressure systems, for making such things as liquid air, liquid nitrogen, etc. After moving about the world for some years they settled in Montreal. She has a daughter, Pat, and two sons. Stuart is with Sears in Nanaimo, working with the brother of the Miss Torrie who used to teach in Holden and became Mrs. Dave Good.

Now this father of three, grandfather of eight, great grandfather of seven, does remember fondly the days of Holden. He hopes you always will have the fine community at Holden that he recalls.

Six Years in Holden High School

by E. Beatrice Parker, B.A., B.E.

I arrived in Holden in September 1948. The road to Holden was rough and gravelled; six years later the pavement had been laid. On the journey out I noted in the southwest a towering column of black smoke — Leduc #1 had blown in. The staff that fall included Mr. Wm. Brushett, Mr. L. Olson, Mr. G. Brimacombe and the writer. The home economics and shop courses were taught under the guidance of Miss Jean Robertson and Mr. Earl Hardy (M.L.A.).

I found myself involved in instruction in a number of interesting courses. During those years I also produced the annual drama production and sponsored the graduation exercises. It was a busy, satisfying and happy time.



Decorating Committee for 1951 Graduation. Back Row: Melba Koetke, Joyce Tkaczyk, Ilene Eberhart. Middle Row: Joanne Kitt, Amelia Mielimaka, Bernice Koetke, Nancy Misyk. Front Row: Islay Krecji, Leona Suchy.

One year the Graduands chose "Lilac Time" as their theme as the exercises were to be held near Victoria Day when the lilacs would be in full bloom. A chorus practiced the theme song, the students chose their graduation finery and a local ladies' group planned the banquet. The decorating committee kept a wary eye on the lilacs and the weather. By the day before the event, the lilac bushes were laden with huge drooping sprays of gorgeous flowers. That night the weather forecast predicted "Frost tonight!" The committee went frantically to work gathering lilacs from the school hedge and various homes and filled numerous tubs and pails. The next morning the bushes were a frozen mass, but we had our flowers to decorate the community hall. The interior was a thing of beauty and perfume — a fitting setting for the lovely gowns of the girls.



School Chorus, 1951: Amelia Mielimaka, Eugenia Bilyk, Bernice Koetke, Teresa Micklich, Melba Koetke, Leona Suchy, Joanne Kitt.

Another graduation, that is pleasant to remember, is the one when the decoration committee chose delightful little story book animals, birds and flowers as their theme. A kindly elevator operator gave us some large sheets of paper that were intended to line grain cars. A piece of the paper stretched the length of the side of the community hall and was about ten feet wide. Sketches of the figures chosen soon romped across the paper. Then brushes and paints colored them. The sheets were stretched out on the gym floor while the art was being done. If a class member was missing it was not difficult to find her — she would be downstairs sitting on the floor as she sketched and painted. The delightful sketches all added to the pleasure of the grad party.

One sad memory of this period was the loss of one of our grade XII students. Betty Thieme became ill just previous to the June examinations which she managed to write and pass. She went into hospital in July and passed away in late October. How we missed and mourned for her. She had been such a happy sweet girl, and had taken an active part in school activities including the high school play in February of that year.

Mr. Thieme, our head caretaker, was a talented musician and choir conductor. We were grateful for his assistance in the training and conducting of our choruses for graduation.

During these years a creditable year book was produced, complete with photos and a nice blue “suede” cover.

Holden High School staff played a leading part in the Holden and district track meet. The writer acted as secretary. She also was active in A.T.A. as was Mr. Olson.

Memories of the Longridge District by Gertie Mizera (Grinde)

I was a member of a family of ten children, the eldest daughter of the third union. My dad had two daughters, my mother had one daughter and then there were eight children. It was your kids and my kids fighting with our kids.

We all grew up in a three room house in the Longridge district. Any time the wind blew from the north living conditions became very primitive. The wind created a down draft and the stove filled the whole house with smoke. The fire in the kitchen stove would have to be put out and only a heater in the living room was used for heating and cooking. Of course the stovepipe going up through the wood floor caught fire many times. Well, we just ran up the stairs and put it out with water.

The bedbugs were atrocious. Every spring the mattresses and walls were sprayed. The whole family

took pillows and feather ticks to the barn where everyone slept in the hayloft until late fall when it got too cold. As soon as we returned to sleep in the house the bedbugs reappeared.

One very cold stormy winter night a family of natives en route to Saddle Lake spent the night with us and several days later it was discovered that our whole family would have to be deloused.

All my school days were spent in Longridge where one teacher taught nine grades with about thirty pupils. We lived three miles from school as did many other students. In summer we drove a team of horses and a buggy and in winter a team of horses and a cutter. Sometimes we rode horseback.

“Mr. McGregor’s garden” was nothing compared to Mrs. Walter Lukawiecki’s that we went right by on our way to and from school. After a sandwich of lard, syrup or peanut butter at noon, there was no way we could resist the delicious carrots, plump peas, poppy seeds and crunchy rutabagas from her garden. I am sure the good Lord had her plant a few extra rows of vegetables just for us.

Longridge school had a travelling library which was a large wooden box filled with books for all grades. When these books were read they were sent to another school, and we received a new box of reading material.

Home Economics was taught in Longridge years before it became an accredited subject in the school curriculum. There was a four lid wood and coal stove in the school basement, so the first lesson learned was to make a fire. During the winter months each family took turns at bringing milk. Teacher bought the cocoa and sugar, then each morning two assigned students made a large pot of hot chocolate. It sure didn’t take long to learn that you just don’t burn the milk. In spring we had a lot of meat at home which would no longer stay frozen outside. We would take a half beef and sealers to school. The entire class helped to can the meat. The bones were put out in a small amount of snow. Each family brought vegetables and the class would make a large kettle of soup. Once a year we cleaned up the school grounds, washed the windows and so on. In the winter we washed the old wooden floor in the classroom by bringing in pails of snow which the children slid around in and in this manner the floor was cleaned.

An old green table filled with sand was used for making maps, canals, roads and mountains. Recesses and noon hours were spent knitting or crocheting or playing hopscotch. We did have two swings and a ball diamond. We brought water in a cream can from home, or got a pailful from Joe Kondrats at noon.

Our gym classes were real fun. On cold mornings we would march around the room to keep warm in

time with the William Tell Overture. Our tumbling mats were burlap sacks sewn together and filled with straw. I remember some of the students rolling their first cigarettes using the straw from the tumble mats and becoming very ill.

One day teacher was planning a party and making a list of what each family should bring. She asked "Would the Grinde kids please bring salad?" I said "No", as there was no lettuce growing in the winter. I thought salad was lettuce with sour cream vinegar, salt and pepper. I was amazed when the salad turned out to be cold potatoes, boiled eggs and onion with sour cream in it, which we could have supplied.

The Christmas concert was always a big event. We would build a stage and hang curtains that we could draw. There was always a lovely big tree which the students put up and decorated with streamers, popcorn strings and home drawn pictures. After the concert in which each student took part the small candles on the branches were lit and Santa gave each child a bag of treats and small gifts as we always exchanged names. One year my Grandpa Renn walked eight miles to Longridge, carrying a gunny sack over his shoulder filled with toys for us. I got a rag doll which I treasured dearly.

The last day of school in June we all went out to Loney's pasture for a treasure hunt, games and a wiener roast. The older students would go to Loid and June Clark's farm in the morning where we would make about five freezers of ice cream. It took a lot of hard work to turn the ice cream freezer by hand. But, boy, was it good ice cream!

One day on our way to school a car stopped and asked us if we knew where Bruce was. We said we all knew where Bruce was. Dad keeps him tied up in the barn. He was our stallion. Now I realize he was asking direction to a nearby town called Bruce.

Rural Reflections

by Randy Lundblad

As I think back to my childhood years on my parents' farm, the ten years from 1945 to 1955 are most vivid in my mind. Incidents that were funny, sad, and terrifying, are the ones that stand out.

For my dad, the threshing era came to an end in 1949. It was hard work with good friends and neighbours helping Dad usually operated the threshing machine and part of his job was to keep the front of the machine clear of straw and grain. As he was standing near the front or throat of the machine, another rack full of bundles pulled up alongside him. A pitchfork that was precariously perched on top of the rack slid down and pierced my father's jaw. A couple of men held him to the ground and another man pulled the fork out. He was rushed to the doctor

with all the speed that was possible in those days, and he passed out from loss of blood just as he entered the doctor's office. Everything turned out okay, but it sure was a harrowing experience.

In the early fifties, my dad decided to sponsor a Swedish emigrant. His name was Thorsten Swardh. He was both white as a lily and green as the grass, but turned out to be a real fine person.

Two incidents come to my mind when I think of Thorsten. One day in the winter time, Thorsten decided to pick up my sisters and myself from the school bus corner. The snowplough had just cleared the road and we watched him approach us at quite a clip. (Dad's 1939 **Hudson** was a real cruiser in those days!) It was then that the tie-rod fell off! One wheel flipped sideways and the heavy car slid momentarily before burying itself in the fresh snow bank! The expression on Thor's face was priceless!

The other incident was with a Massey-Harris Pacemaker tractor. Thor was coming to the yard to get a chain (my father was stuck in the mud with the other tractor), but he misjudged his speed. When he turned the corner as he went through a gate, Thor was unable to straighten out the steering wheel so he wound up performing a grand U-turn — straight into a full granary of wheat! Dad was just a little wild that day!

There was an ever present danger with horses as well as machinery. One summer day I was raking hay with a dump-rake and a team of horses. The horses were very mismatched — one was nervous and spirited; the other was slow and lazy. When I attempted to make a turn, the wooden hitch-pole snapped in two. The loud, cracking noise sent the spirited horse into panic. I narrowly managed to escape serious injury by throwing myself backwards over the rake which was careening wildly from side to side. As the horses galloped across the field, the rake ripped loose from the harness and the horses continued on until the lazy one fell from exhaustion. The other horse continued to gallop home with no harness but bleeding from cuts and wounds. When my parents saw the horse gallop into the yard, they expected the worst, but again we were spared a tragedy on the farm.

Fire was a great danger on the farm. Fire fighting usually consisted of your own resources. I was tilling a field one spring day and decided to burn some old hay in a slough bottom. It smoldered but wouldn't burn so I lit a second slough on fire, and then a third. It was one helluva dumb idea! The wind suddenly picked up and I had three large fires completely out of control! After smashing through four fences (three of them my neighbours'!) I finally got the fires under control by tilling a fire-break. I was one tired and black boy, at the end of that day!

My sister Marlene had a talent in handling

horses. At least I thought she did. She managed to corral our neighbour's wild and unbroken horse. After many days she gained the horse's confidence and then persuaded me (6 yrs. old) to ride on a small sled behind the horse which she would ride to school. The three and one-half mile trip started out smoothly enough. Then all hell broke loose! The horse went into a full gallop and all I could do was to hang on that little sled for dear life! Bert Appleby saw the runaway horse coming down the road so he called his wife and children and dog to form a barricade across the road. It didn't work! The horse went into the ditch and the sled I was riding hit Bert's culvert and I was catapulted into the air! Again, lady-luck was with us as nobody was hurt!

The day my brother Gary and I decided to paint the barn was a real bummer! Painting under the hayloft peak was the big problem. We very cleverly made a platform and attached the rope from the hay-sling carriage. He asked Dad to hook the tractor on the other end and raise the platform, complete with buckets of paint and ambitious painters! Well, you could guess what happened then. Dad pulled us up too high and the carriage tripped when we hit the top! The platform, buckets and painters hit the hayloft doors (which were closed — of course!) Gary and I clung to the side of the barn like two bats in daylight! Dad (who couldn't see us from where the tractor was) finally stopped because he **thought** he had gone far enough!

The "Good old days" were good — all you had to do was survive!

Undeveloped road allowances which separated two farmers were usually a source of hay for those two farmers. It was an unwritten agreement with Fred Loga that let us gather this hay each summer. When another neighbour, three miles distant, came with his horses and mower to cut that hay, Dad was "put out", to say the least. That's what made him put plan "B" into motion!

Dad recruited me as his scout to keep an eye on that road allowance.

Day 1 — hay was cut

Day 2 — hay was raked

Day 3 — (early!) hay was picked up and stacked in hayloft. (Our hayloft!)

The day my cousin Arnold Logan and I found a loaded shot gun shell on the road was a day I'd rather forget. We carried that shell around for hours until a grandiose scheme settled over us — we would shoot some sparrows! We found the necessary equipment in the garage. 1 — hammer; 2 — punch; 3 — 5' length of ½" pipe. The sparrows thickly populated a cluster of willows behind the chicken coop! We tossed — I lost. Arnold held the pipe at the appropri-

ate angle and I hit the shell with the hammer and punch! The shell detonated with a helluva bang and I went flying backwards with powder burns across my face. When I finally got up enough courage to go to the house, mom said I had chicken pox for sure! I replied — "Yeah, I don't feel so good; even my ears are ringing!"

The day Marlene hooked up the baby carriage to her 4-H calf is a day **she** would rather forget! When the wheels made the first squeak, the calf took off like a bat-out-of-hell! The calf cleared the corral fence but the buggy hung from the fence while the calf ran straight into a slough! Marlene ran after the calf to hold his head up out of the water — by now he was nearly drowning!

Travelling to school by horse and buggy had its moments. My sister Gladys and I went to Longridge School in the summertime with a horse and two wheeled chariot. This chariot had tall wheels and long protruding hubs. One day we coaxed Helen Grinde into racing with us. (Roly Pipke was riding with us at the time.) Helen sent her team and Bennett Buggy hurtling down the road, with us in hot pursuit! Anne Pipke was beside herself when she saw this thundering chaos coming down the road. As we passed Helen, our hub accidentally came too close to Helen's front wheel and her spokes just disappeared into kindling!

Ah, those were the days!

Early Recollections of Holden by Harold Story

The Police force in the early days was known as the North West Mounted Police and it travelled entirely by horseback.

The mailing address of this area then was Vermillion Valley, Northwest Territories and the mail came by horseback in saddlebags at irregular intervals. It is believed this early mail was delivered to the Appleby home, but a year or two later the Wm. Campbell family moved in from Ontario and Mr. Campbell built a good sized home for those times, and in fact large enough to put in a small store. He also looked after the mail for several years.

The first school was built in 1904 or 1905 and was located about one-half mile north of Jack Keith's farm. This school was used until 1911 when a new school was built in the same area as the ones being used today. The first teacher was Lottie Brisbin, who later became Mrs. A. T. Stewart.

The surveying for the Grand Trunk Pacific was started in 1907. The grading was done mostly in 1908 and the steel was put down in 1909. The first station agent in Holden was a man by the name of Dodds, followed by Charles Steadman.



The First Picnic, July 1, 1905. Back Row: Norman Campbell, Mr. Wolfe, ?, Pete Braglin, Chris Christensen, Alf Palmer, A. T. Stewart, W. A. Clark, Cecil and William Campbell. 3rd Row: ?, ?, Mrs. J. Story (in hat), ?, ?, Mrs. Wolfe. 2nd Row: Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Hans Christensen (beard), Christina Christensen, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Jos. Stewart, Anna Christensen, ?, Elna Christensen, Bert Daily, Lottie Brisbin, ?, ?, Sinne Christensen, ?, ?, ?, Frank Andrews, ?. Front Row: ?, ?, ?, Vera Clark, Magnus Christensen, Lloyd Andrews, Frank Wolfe, Clarence Story, Earl Andrews, Clyde Stewart, Victor Clark, Harold Story, ?, ?, Lester and George Story.

The beginning of a town started forming about 1906 in an area where the Jack Keith farm buildings are at the present time. About six business places located there and a few small houses as well, but when the railway came in the station was located much farther east, so the only alternative was to move to become a part of the new town being planned. It is believed that one well built store was moved to the new area and located on main street. This store continued to serve the public for many years and was an important link always.

A familiar but unofficial name was given this original little settlement, including the small school and this name was Pleasant Ridge. This ridge area was part of a farm and the planning committee for the new village had to purchase this land from a Mr. Joseph Stewart, father of A. T. Stewart.

A great deal of thought was given to selecting a suitable name for this promising new village, but the name that seemed to be most acceptable was Holden. This name was chosen because the M.P. representing the area then was J. B. Holden.

As things progressed various businesses came into being. In 1910 the Traders bank opened on the familiar bank corner, a newspaper known by everyone as the Holden Herald was soon rolling off the presses. This paper was edited and published by a Mr. Newhart. Late in 1909 the Holden House was

built and operated as a family restaurant and this supplied a great need for travellers and sometimes for local people. This restaurant was operated by the Mumford family for several years. Sudie Mumford was the first drayman and he was very efficient. Incidentally this Holden House is still a home in town and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nichols. Another restaurant was opened around 1910 or 1911 on main street and this good eating place was managed by two sisters, Lila and Grace Lake. Lila married a druggist Wm. Hayes and Grace married a bank clerk by the name of Foran.

Holden at this time had a real estate and insurance office operated by Thompson and Allan. Mr. Thompson was also a qualified tailor and he made many good dress suits. The Holden hotel was built in 1912 but was altered and added to in later years. The first hall was of necessity in the loft area of one of the livery barns, of which there were two. The next hall was built in 1912 and was later used as the Masonic hall. The hall was upstairs and the building had a storage area and two strong cells on the main floor. It was used for many years until a better one was built in 1935. The first church in town was the Methodist Church built by volunteer workers in 1910 or 1911, and the Lutheran Church was built in the same manner four years later. The town well was drilled and the large cistern put in, in 1912.

Among the very first businesses in town was the Gilbert and Black store on the northeast corner of the intersection, the lumber yard across on the northwest corner was operated by Mr. Halsa. On the southwest corner was a complete general store selling everything from soup to harness. One of the early owners of this store was Mr. Norman Smith, an excellent singer.

It would be unfair not to mention the doctors that served the area. Very early a doctor came from Old Vegreville, much later a young doctor was at Bruce for a short time, then in late 1909 Doctor S. J. Farrell and his good wife came to Holden from Ontario.

The first rink was on the slough southwest of the hotel and some hockey was played there. The boards were mostly one or two boards high and the rest was snow bank. The original sports grounds were south of the railway north of where the highway is located now. Some good baseball was played there. Some unusual and amusing uniforms turned out to play. These uniforms likely came to Canada from the Dakotas or Minnesota. One pitcher recalled from memory, was wearing a farmer's straw hat, but he

pitched well. The first all new uniforms were worn by the team from Bruce in about 1913.

The first fire engine that the local fire department had was a chemical container on wheels, and was operated by three men. The first butcher to locate in Holden was Charlie Longmate.

The early cars that came to the area were model T Fords; one owned by Angus Ross an elevator man and another by Alex Brown, village secretary and insurance agent.

Another important point worthy of noting was that the early settlers of the Protestant faith attended church when it was possible, at the Campbell home. It seems likely that a Rev. Findley was the first minister to serve this area. He was conducting baptisms and some funerals as early as 1904. He travelled from place to place on horseback and would spend the night with whatever family he was nearest to.

The pioneers that came quite early into any new area had a very hard and difficult life that younger people living in these areas now will never fully understand.

Great Grandma's Recipe for the Family Wash

(1) Bild fir in back yard to heet kettle of rain water. (2) Set tub so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert. (3) Sort things, make three pile, one pile white, one pile colord, one pile work britches and rags. (4) Stir flour and cold water to smooth paste, then thin down with biling water. (5) Rub dirty spots on berd, scrub hard, then bile. Rub colord, but don't bile, just rench and starch. (6) Take white things out of kettle with broom handle, then rench, blue and starch. (7) Spread towels on grass. (8) Hang old rags on fence. (9) Pore rench water on flower beds. (10) Scrub porch with hot soapy water. (11) Turn tubs upside down. (12) Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with side combs, brew cuppa tea, set and rest a spell and count your blessings.

Gals, hang this above your automatic washer-dryer and when things look black, read it again.

There are those who have little and give
it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty
of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy
is their reward.

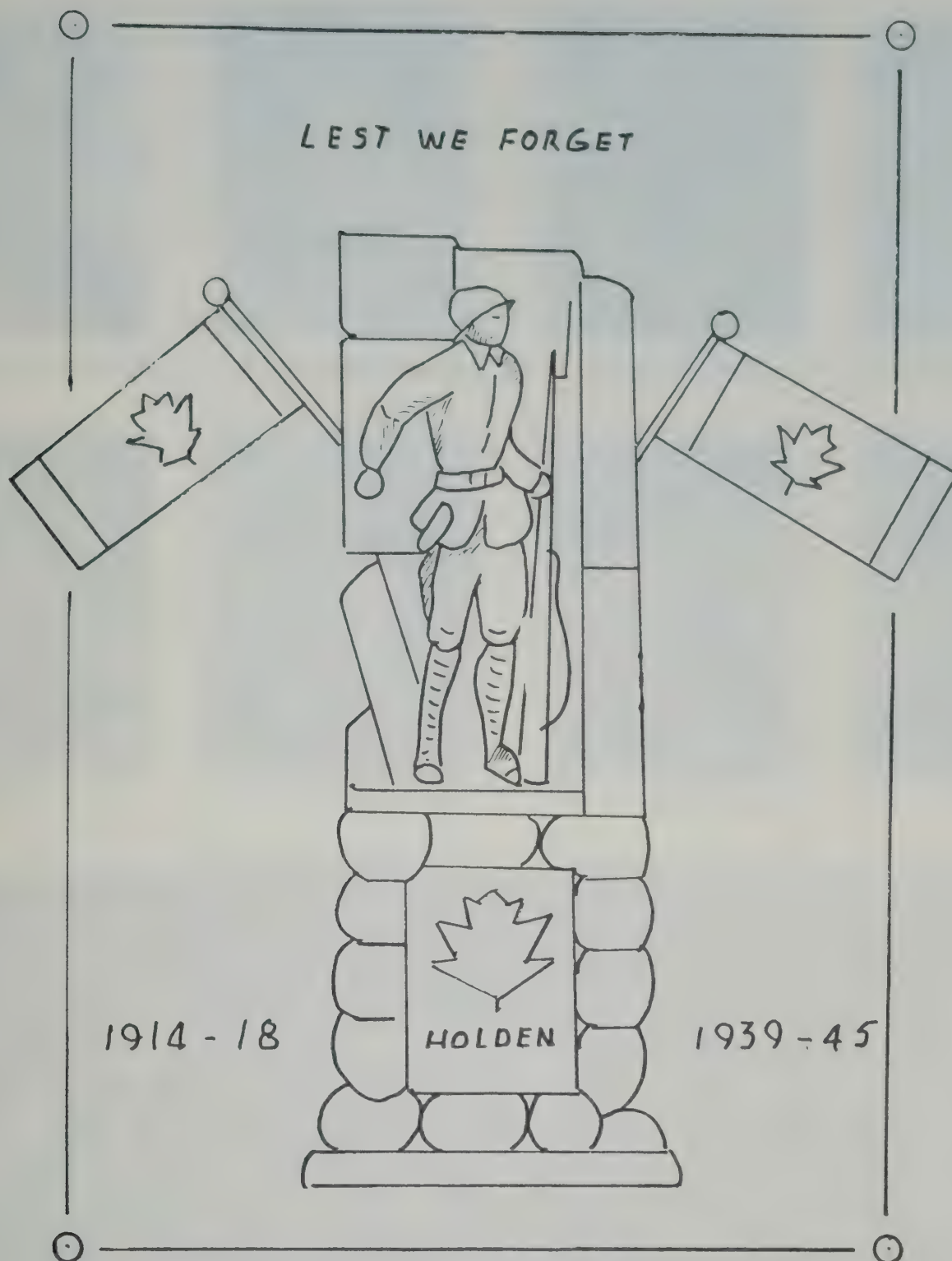
And there are those who give with pain, and
that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not
pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give
with mindfulness of virtue;

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle
breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God
speaks, and from behind their eyes
He smiles upon the earth.

KAHILIL GIBRAN



The following are the names of the men from the Holden area who lost their lives while serving our country. (We sincerely apologize for any omissions.)

World War I

Gertle L. Baker	John McClosky
Anthony Brandon	Cecil Mumford
William Dain	Paul Paulson
Lloyd L. Fleming	Jack Potts
Tudor J. Stolie	

World War II

Rolf Chetney	Alton Kjosness
Nick Cwihula	Bryn Roberts
James Foran	Harold Robinson
Theodore Foran	Edward Stewart
Harvey Gorrie	John Thieme

World War I



Noble Armstrong.



James Cadger.



Ellsworth Daily.



Wilbur Daily.



Herbert Forgan.



Ernest Gabrielson.



Laurence Gossman.



Joe, Bill, Dick, Jim and Jack Good with their father (centre).



Ole Hanson.



Bernard Liveton.



W. F. Moore.



Kenneth Morrison.



Cecil Mumford.



Edgar Nord.



Arthur M. Sizer.



Leonard Willans.

World War II



Lloyd Andrews.



Roy Andrews.



Bert Appleby.



Clinton Armstrong.



Joe Balko.



Bill Bell.



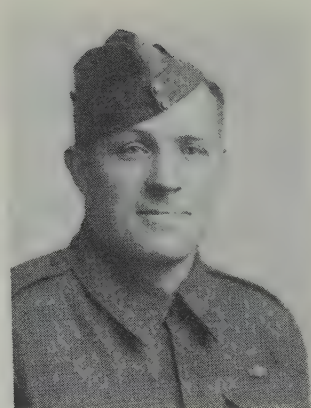
Peter Blake.



Clayton Bratrud.



Nettie and Harold Bratrud.



Hans Brekstad.



Garnet Burnstad.



John Budzinski.



Michael Budzinski.



Minor Chawrun.



Harold Cawley, Paul Grycan.



Helen and Margrethe Chetney.



Vernon Courtney.



Edgar Curtis.



Joe Danilak.



Steve Danilak.



William Danilak.



Walter Dorin.



Ernest Eberhart.



Bert Edworthy.



Knut Chetney.



Rolf Chetney.



John Christian.



Joe Chrystian.



Angus Coates.



Phillip Connolly.



Howard Courtney.



Everett Courtney.



Stanley Evanchu.



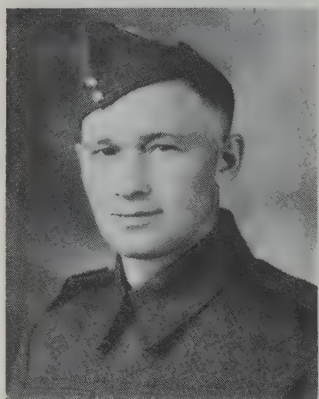
Richard Farrell.



M. Faryna.



Clarence Fjellstrom.



Ole Fodness.



James Foran.



Theodore Foran.



Sherman Forre.



Harold Fuhr.



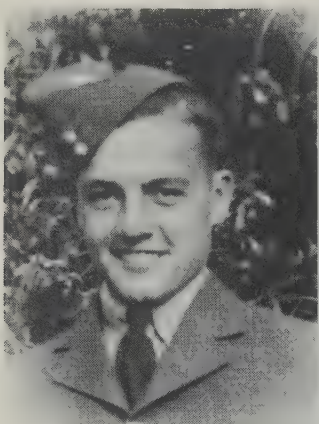
E. H. J. Gibson.



John Giebelhaus.



Peter Giebelhaus.



David Good.



Harvey Gorrie.



Norman Gorrie.



Marcel Gourdeau.



John Grystyszyn.



Mike and Nick Grycan.



Alex Harris.



John, Victoria and Stewart Heffel.



Pete Hladilo.



William Hladilo.



Cecil Hooper.



Melville Hooper.



William Hopkins.



Harry Hrabec Jr.



Peter Hrabec.



William Ingram.



Jake Jacobson.



Stanley Jober.



John Kabesh.



Roy Kachman.



Terence Kennedy.



Alton Kjosness.



Anton Kolodychuk.



Joe Komarnisky.



Paul Kozdrowski.



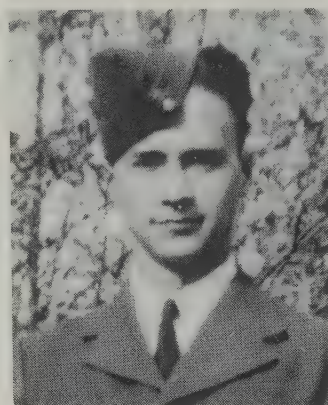
Dave Kryska.



Steve Kryska.



Marshall Kuzyk.



Bill Kwasnisky.



Ernest Lamb.



Kathleen Lamb.



Mervyn Lamb.



Richard Lamb.



Thomas Matthews.



Joe and John Malick.



Mike Marko.



Victor Marriage.



Conrad Melby.



Edward Miciak.



William McIsaac.



Glen McLennan.



Walter McLennan.



William McLennan.



Alfred Mohr.



Cecil Mohs.



Peter Motkoski.



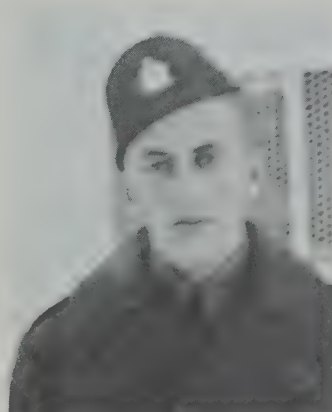
Mike Nalesnik.



Henry Nalesnik and Tony Pooke.



Tom Nalesnik.



Alf Nelson.



John Nelson.



Louis Nehajowich.



Walter Nordstrom.



Jack Ogonoski.



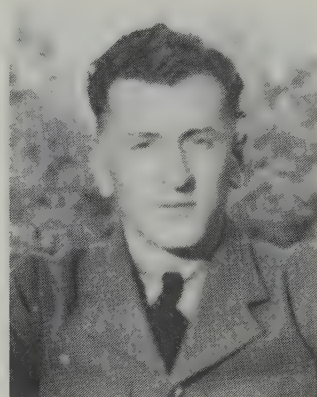
Oswald Olsen.



Jennie Ozubko.



Harry Olson, Lawrence Ritland.



Steve Ozubko.



Mike Ozubko.



Frank Pawluk.



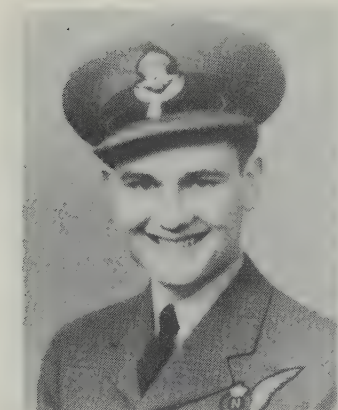
Marius Pflug.



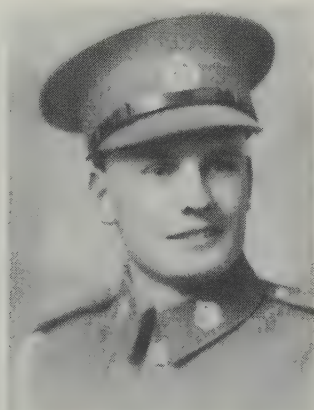
Joyce Phillips.



Paul Pooke.



Bryn Roberts.



John Roberts.



Edwin Robinson.



Thomas Robinson.



Harold Robinson.



Wilfred Robinson.



Ed Romanisson.



Joe Romanisson.



Harry Ronnie.



Norman Saboe.



Albert Schauer.



G. B. Seccombe.



John and Roy Seccombe.



Lloyd Selkirk.



Edward Shanley.



A. Sharawara.



Paul Shehinski.



Martin Shyba.



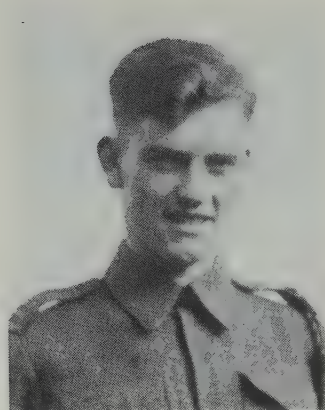
Harold Stackhouse.



William Stecyk.



Edward Stewart.



Lawrence Story.



Joe L. Stefanizyn.



Peter Stefanizyn.



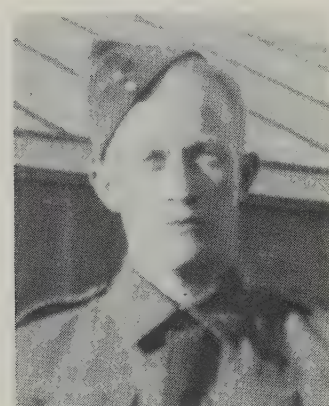
Vernon Story.



Steve Suchy.



Harry Tangen.



Wilfred Tangen.



George H. Taylor.



John Tchir.



Henry Tiedemann.



Jack Thieme.



Lucien Van Ruskenveld.



Arthur, Leonard and Elwood Willans.

Family Histories

Afseth, Carl **by Oscar Afseth**

Carl, son of Chris and Inga Afseth, lived in the Holden area for some years, during which time he broke land for many farmers around Holden and surrounding districts, first with tractors and later with caterpillars. He also dug basements and water dugouts.

Before this, he worked for Andrew Naslund at Viking, and during that time he did a fair amount of curling. Carl and his team captured the cup at the Gladstone curling rink, the first year it was open.

Carl has lived in the Peace River-Manning area for a number of years, working at various jobs: operating cats, in the saw mills and on the railroad which was built from Grimshaw north.

Afseth, Christian and Family **by Oscar Afseth**

Chris Afseth came to Canada in 1905 from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. He filed for a homestead on SE-32-47-16. George Platke settled on the southwest quarter of the same section and a man by the name of Gerlock on the northeast quarter and Kruger on the northwest. Chris Afseth, Hans Huseby, George Platke and Thomas Courtney lived in a tent set up on the south side of a grove of poplars, which are still there today, on the Gerlock homestead. Later they built a small house for Gerlock.

Dad said there was a lot of water in the sloughs in those years, and muskrats by the hundreds. He made a light boat from a willow framework, a heavy canvas stretched over that, soaked with linseed oil and then painted. He would carry this on his back, along with a good number of traps strapped to his waist, and carry a .22 rifle. He told of how he could put his boat in the water on the west side of his homestead and go south for seven miles, on what was then Sandstorm Lake. He also told of how he would skin a muskrat in less than two minutes to lighten the load. Coyotes, muskrats, and weasels provided a much needed cash income.

He did some building and blacksmithing in those days, building houses for Ole Larson, Lars Johnson and Jim Courtney, a barn for Pete Oustal as well as Scona School.

The first two falls he was here, he returned to South Dakota to run one of his brother-in-law's threshing outfits. Jim Courtney went with him one fall and Hans Huseby another as fireman.

In 1908, he began threshing with his own Russell steam outfit, which he used until 1911. He also used this steamer for custom feed grinding and rolling. In 1912, he took delivery of a new Reeves engine and separator and threshed locally until 1931, having the longest run in 1912 which was 74 days.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Afseth — 1912.

In April 1912, my father and Inga Meadahl were married in Strome. They travelled around sloughs and snow banks by team and buggy to Daysland, and by car from there. Inga came to Canada from Norway in 1905, with her parents and two brothers, Edward and Martin.

In 1916, Dad rented his land, and sold the livestock, and machinery by auction. He intended to sell his steam engine too, but there were no buyers. He then decided to go out breaking land, most of which was north of Holden, for Dr. Farrel and McVittie brothers. He took the whole family along in a bunk car, where mother cooked for the men. He pulled eight sixteen-inch plows in prairie, and three twenty-four-inch plows in bushland. In about 1923, Dad bought a V-type brush cutter at Loberg's sale, which he reconstructed and did a lot of brush cutting in this area.



Chris Afseth family: Mrs. Afseth, Carl, Oscar, Robert, Nettie and Mr. Afseth.

In the fall of 1930, Dad went hunting big game west of Winfield and found that this area had been opened for homesteads; and that he could file on a second one, so he filed on one and mother on another. In 1932, they took our younger brother Robert, and moved to the new homestead in a Rugby truck dad had at the time. Carl and I and our sister Nettie were left to look after the old homestead. We milked cows, shipped the cream to Holden, and sent some of the money to the folks, as they had no income for a time. Between Dad and us boys, we built a small sawmill, as there was some good timber on some of the new homesteads.

My sister Nettie passed away in 1937 and I carried on farming until the fall of 1939, when I decided I'd had enough. We had an auction sale and rented the land to John Tomesheski, who later bought it. I then worked at a variety of jobs; cut tamarack posts, cleared land, stoked and hauled bundles. During the

winter of 1940-41, I operated a grain cleaning outfit for Harry Johnson, and in the spring of '41, I bought it. I continued to do custom seed cleaning until 1945. In 1944 I cleaned 144,000 bushels of grain.

During this time my parents bought an acreage at Alder Flats, where they raised chickens and sold eggs to the local sawmills.

I bought a Caterpillar 60 and a 12 foot brushcutter and in 1946 began cutting brush, my first job being at Irvin Pederson's. I hired operators for the grain cleaner until 1949, when I sold it to Gordon and Dennis Meadahl.

In the fall of 1946, I purchased E $\frac{1}{2}$ -6-47-16 from Mrs. Sigurd Augustine. After breaking some land, I rented out until 1954, when I bought some equipment and began farming.



Oscar and Doris Afseth — 1958.

During 1950, Dad's health failed, so I had a house built and moved my parents here from Alder Flats. Dad passed away that December at the age of 77. Mother continued to live with me until I married Doris Ordway in 1958; then she lived partly with my brother Robert's family, and partly with us. Later she moved to Stoney Creek Lodge in Camrose, and passed away in January 1976 at the age of 90 years, 11 months.

Doris and I continued to farm until 1972, when I bought Mike Komarnisky's Feed Service in Holden. I operated it until 1977 when I closed it down, I later took it down, salvaging most of the lumber and equipment. In 1978, we bought the Royal Bank residence where we still reside.



Clyde, David, Doris and Oscar Afseth.

We have two sons, both married and we also have four grandchildren.

Since my retirement, we have done a fair bit of travelling, including regular visits to Outlook, Saskatchewan where Doris was raised. I also have time to pursue my hobbies, mostly woodworking.

A Story about Chris Afseth and Tom White (a Holden Lawyer)

Tom had heard about Dad taking a second homestead west of Wetaskiwin, and one day they met in front of Tom's office and he said "You dam fool Chris, what are you going to do out in that bush at your age?" My dad replied that he wasn't going to touch the bush at all, but was going to walk around the stumps. After some time, Dad returned to Holden and met Tom again. Tom asked how things were going and Dad replied by saying, "Oh, it's slow, as slow as a lawyer going to heaven.

Afseth, Robert

Robert, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian (Chris) Afseth was born at Holden in 1920. He lived with his parents on the farm in the Palmer district where he attended school until 1930. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Afseth took up a second homestead at Alder Flats, Alberta. Robert remained with his parents and completed his education there. In 1942 Robert joined the army and served overseas.

He returned in 1946, at which time he took employment with his brother Oscar, cutting brush and breaking land in the Holden district. In 1949 he married Olive Meadahl. They moved to Wainwright, Alberta, in 1962 where Robert is presently employed with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires.

They have three children. Ralph and Clifford are

both employed in Wainwright, and daughter Annette is employed in Edmonton.



Clifford, Robert, Ralph, Annette and Olive Afseth.

Albinson Family

by Alistair Albinson

My parents Harry and Susan Albinson were married in 1912 in Ontario. Father was born in Sweden and Mother in Scotland. World War broke out in 1914, Father joined the army and went overseas. Mother went back to Scotland where I was born. After the war we settled on a farm south east of Holden. They lived on the farm until 1935. They both passed away in 1954 at Victoria.

General Conditions:

The 1920's were lean years, the 1930's were worse. Money was scarce, one month's wages was equal to one hour's wage today. Being a farmer had its advantages — there was always a meal on the table. If we couldn't afford to buy liquor we could always make our own. Friday and Saturday were dance nights and it wasn't considered a good dance unless there were three or four fights, and coming home sober was unheard of. It's a good thing the horses knew their way home. Cars were few and far between and the roads were glorified prairie trails. Apart from the hardships endured, the cold winters, the loneliness, I still maintain that the people were happier and friendlier than we are today with all the comforts of modern life.

My Own Personal History:

I left school early. It wasn't that I was a backward scholar, I just wasn't interested in gaining an educa-

tion. I left home in 1930 and travelled the country riding freight trains looking for work. I survived somehow. In 1931 I left home again and joined a travelling orchestra. The same year I made my radio debut, then I returned home. In 1934 I left home for good and settled in Edmonton. Between music, entertaining at theatres, and the odd jobs I got by, but didn't get rich. I also got married in 1934.

1939 the war broke out. I joined up and returned to Canada in 1946. I went back to music again for awhile. I went to work for the Federal Gov't. and stayed there for fifteen years. I am now retired and live in Penticton, B.C.

Albrecht, George Family

George Albrecht was born in 1884 in the village of Norka in the province of Saratov in Russia. Here he met and married Louise Krieger in 1905.

They arrived in Canada in 1909 with their eldest daughter, Mary. They settled in the Holden district where the rest of their family were born, namely: Mary, Emily, Minor, Christina, Peter, Leah, Betty, John and Rachel. After being in this district for a few years they bought the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-49-15, where they farmed until they retired.



George and Louise Albrecht and family, on their 60th Anniversary, 1964.

In 1960 they moved to Holden and lived there. In 1965 they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, with all their children present.

Mrs. Albrecht passed away in 1966, and Mr. Albrecht passed away shortly after his 90th birthday in 1974 at the Viking Nursing Home.

Albrecht, George and Alice

As told to Lois Schultz

George and Alice (otherwise known as Elizabeth) Albrecht immigrated to Canada in about 1914 from Portland, Oregon. Both were born in Norka, Russia, but they met in Portland and were married there in 1904.



George and Alice Albrecht 1904.

Mr. Albrecht had a brother, Conrad, who lived in Canada and invited George and Alice and their family, (four of their seven children) John, Lily, Katie and Irma to come for a visit. There was sickness in the family after they arrived and they were requested to stay here in the Martin's district. They would have loved to go back to their home and families in Portland but decided to stay in this new land and make a living for their family as best they knew how.

Mr. Albrecht worked as a carpenter for the first few years. He helped in the building of homes for Adam Giebelhaus, John Giebelhaus and Henry Giebelhaus and in the construction of other buildings in the area. In 1921 they settled into farming and bought, cleared and built on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25-50-15-W4. The older children stayed home from school to help plough and work the land and look after the horses, cows, chickens etc. During this time three other girls were added to this family. Life was very hard; money was scarce so Mr. Albrecht would do extra work on the road to help raise the family and make a decent

living during these depression years. There were times when different ways had to be found to get the children back and forth to school. If Grandma and Grandpa were here today they could tell of many incidents in the bringing up of their family.

As related to me, a granddaughter-in-law, for some strange reason (or maybe not so strange), the Albrecht home would attract many visitors on Sunday afternoons, mostly male of course. As the saying goes, "If you want to catch fish, you must go where the fish are". All in all, Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht raised a fine family.



Spring 1958. Standing: Pauline Albrecht, Katie Schultz, George and Alice Albrecht, Lily Albrecht, John Albrecht. Seated: Florence Ergezinger, Esther Ergezinger. Missing: Irma Brigge.

John, was the oldest and only son. He married Frieda Widmer and they have two children, Leonard and Shirley. John and Frieda farmed on NE-24-50-15-W4 until they retired, sold the farm and moved to the town of Vegreville. Frieda died suddenly in October of 1979.

Lily, the oldest girl, married Henry Albrecht and lived and farmed in the Villeneuve district, West of Edmonton. They have one boy and four girls. Both are deceased.

Katie, married Robert Schultz. (Story elsewhere in this book.)

Irma, married Otto Brigge. After farming in this area for awhile, they moved to Rosedale, B.C. and had a dairy farm until they retired. They have four children, three girls and one boy. Otto died in 1979. Irma still lives in the city of Chilliwack, B.C.

Pauline, married Rueben Albrecht. They farmed, were in business, and now are retired in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Carolyn and Janice. Carolyn married Herman Bauer and they live on the Julius Bauer home place.

Esther, married Albert Ergezinger and are now still living on the original George P. Albrecht home place. They have one son, Wayne.

Florence, married Robert Ergezinger and are living in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Cindy.

Many will remember seeing Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht driving by in their 1936 Chev. car. Usually they were wending their way to their son's or a daughter's place or their weekly trip to Vegreville or visiting friends and relatives in the Holden area.

Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht sold their farm, and in the early 1960's moved to the town of Holden to live. Their small white house was only half a block west of the monument. They enjoyed living in town for approximately five years. Mr. Albrecht lived to be 81 years of age. Mrs. Albrecht spent her latter years in nursing homes in Vegreville and Edmonton until her death in 1977 at the age of 92.

Albrecht, George and Lily

George was the youngest brother of Adam and Henry Albrecht and a half brother of George P. Albrecht, "big" Conrad Albrecht, and Mrs. Henry



George Albrecht, niece Marie Giebelhaus and Lily Albrecht.



George, Marie, Lily, Ruth and husband.

Giebelhaus. His wife Lily came from Portland Oregon, U.S.A. They lived for a few years with the Albrecht family, but moved to Portland in the early 1930's. They had two children Ruth and Robert, who still reside in Portland.

Allan, Donald, Pearl and Family

Donald H. Allan was born in Ponoka, Northwest Territories in 1902 to R. K. and Mary Allan. He attended Ponoka School from grade 1 through grade 12, winning the gold medal for highest marks in grade 9.

In 1919 the family moved to Edmonton where he attended the University of Alberta. Since he was a member of the University's first Commerce class and since his name began with "A" he became the first Commerce graduate. He was awarded the Women's University Club's gold medal for earning the highest average in the junior and senior years in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In sports he won the men's singles tennis tournament in 1922 and was on the track team which travelled to the University Games in Winnipeg that year.

From 1923 to 1927 he was employed by Marshall Wells wholesale hardware firm in Edmonton.

In 1927 his father R. K. Allan, cousin George W. Allan and Don purchased the McAfee Hardware in Holden. Allan's Hardware was managed by R. B. "Dad" Harris until 1928 when Don took over. Above the store Dad Harris, E. J. Williams the druggist, Johnny McLeod who worked at the lumberyard, and Don kept bachelor quarters. In 1931 or 1932 Allan's Hardware bought the store building which Tom White had erected on the lot north of Liden's store. Allan's Hardware occupied that building until December 31, 1969 when the stock was sold by auction and the business closed. The store had been in operation for 42½ years.

During Don's life in Holden he has been active in many organizations. He has attended the United Church all the years from 1927 until the present and was elected to the Session, and served as secretary-treasurer of the congregation for 34 years and as secretary-treasurer of the Ryley-Holden-Bruce Pastoral Charge for a similar period. He became a member of Dynamic Lodge #96 of the Masonic Order in 1928 and was elected District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District #17 in 1950.

Sports were always of interest to Don and he was delighted to play on the Holden hockey team which won the Gas Line League cup. Baseball was played for many years and he enjoyed many league and sports day games. He was fortunate to play third for Sam Black when his rink won the local bonspiel. Don was also active in basketball, softball, tennis and

golf. He served as president of the Holden Sports Day Committee for three years and a profit was made in each year.

Don represented Holden on the Holden School Division for a term of three years and also served for 20 years on the Tofield Hospital District Board as the Holden representative.

In the early days before radio became common, the United Ladies' Aid sponsored amateur plays in which Beth Campbell, and Don and many others enjoyed entertaining the audiences of Holden, Ryley, Bruce and Viking.

During World War II an Air Cadet Squadron was formed in Holden and Don was appointed Commanding Officer. The squadron was very successful and indeed was awarded second prize among squadrons in Northern Alberta in one year's competition. Don was also an officer in R.C.S.C. Nootka for a number of years.

He received the Alberta 75th Anniversary Gold Medal for Senior Citizens who were born in or before 1905 in that part of the Northwest Territories which is now Alberta.



Pearl and Don Allan.

After Don's courtship of Pearl, eldest daughter of Neal and Helen Crimmin (see Crimmin story), which included going to movies, dances, baseball and hockey games, they were married in 1937. They purchased a small house at the east side of Holden (4808-50 Avenue now). While living there they were delighted with the birth of Donald in 1938. They felt their happiness complete when their daughter Gail arrived in 1942. Donnie and Gail attended Holden School from grades 1 through 12. Donnie won the Governor-General's Medal in grade 9 for having the highest average (92%) in the Holden School Divi-

sion. Both Donnie and Gail were regular attenders of Sunday school and sang in the junior choir. Donnie was in Scouts, Sea Cadets, and sports and Gail in Guides Brownies, and Majorettes.



Donald and Gail Allan.

After a year in New Zealand Donnie attended the University of Alberta where he qualified for a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. At the same convocation in 1962 his mother received her Bachelor of Education Degree, which she earned by taking summer school and evening courses. One week before graduation Donnie married Kathleen McIsaac, a school-teacher from Scott, Saskatchewan. They lived three years in Calgary where he articed and became a Chartered Accountant. The family then moved to Ottawa where Donnie is still employed by the Income Tax Department. He is now chief of the Audit Review Board of the Ottawa District. Kathy works as a Computer Programmer with the government. They have three children, Timothy, born in 1963, John in 1965, and Jane in 1967.

Gail attended McTavish Business College in Edmonton. She then was employed in the General Hospital business office and later worked for the Public Trustee in Edmonton. In 1963 she and Ted Chmilar of Vilna, were married. They have a son Jonathan who was born in 1971. Ted is a Computer Systems Consultant, and is self employed. During their marriage the Chmilars have lived in Edmonton and Kelowna, B.C. They now reside in Sherwood Park. Gail is a district manager for Avon and an active member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

The years flew by while Pearl was busily engaged in all that being a young wife and mother involves. She was, and is, a member of United Church Women, took an active part in mothers' groups, taught Sunday School for five years, and substituted

at school occasionally. With encouragement and support from Don and the children she went back to full time teaching in 1953. She spent eleven happy years with Holden's Grade 5's. Then Mr. Pike, the superintendent, requested that she plan and organize a Holden School Library, and assume the position of Teacher-Librarian. This meant more courses which resulted in a Graduate Diploma in Library Science. Pearl continued to derive new satisfactions in this position until she retired in 1976. During her years in Holden School she was elected to several executive offices of the Beaver Local Alberta Teachers' Association #17. She also became the first secretary of the newly formed A.T.A. Provincial School Library Council, a position she held for three years.



The Allan family. Back Row: Donald and Tim Allan; Ted and Gail Chmilar. Front Row: Kathy and Jane Allan, Donald Sr. and Pearl Allan, Jon Chmilar.

To fill the gap made by retirement Pearl sold World Book Encyclopedia. She enjoyed taking part in plays presented by the Beaver Players at the Regional Arts Centre in Holden. Don and Pearl have camped and made many trips with their motorhome, attended the U. of A.'s Spring Sessions for Seniors, and taken several tours within North America.

The Allans have found 1982 to have been a difficult year. Don has had a total right knee joint replacement and total left hip replacement operations. Altogether he has spent more than seven months in hospitals. During his hospitalization he has found the loving care and concern of his wife and family to be a tower of strength and support. The Allans appreciate the many thoughtful acts of kindness shown to them by friends and neighbors during this trying time.

During the many years spent in Holden Pearl and Don have found it to be a good place to live, raise their family and make good friends. They hope for reasonably good health so that they may continue their retirement pursuits.

Anderson, Clair

Clair (Andy) Anderson came from London, Ontario to Round Hill, where he worked for William Kozak for a short time. In 1952 he came to Holden and worked for Albert Pederson as a mechanic until he broke his leg in 1955. When he was able to go back to work, he worked for Bell Machinery. When this business was sold to Jack Stambaugh, he worked there until fire destroyed the garage. Andy then started small engine repairs in his own little shop, where he is kept busy even now. He has resided with Henry and Frances Hanson ever since he arrived in Holden.



Claire Anderson.

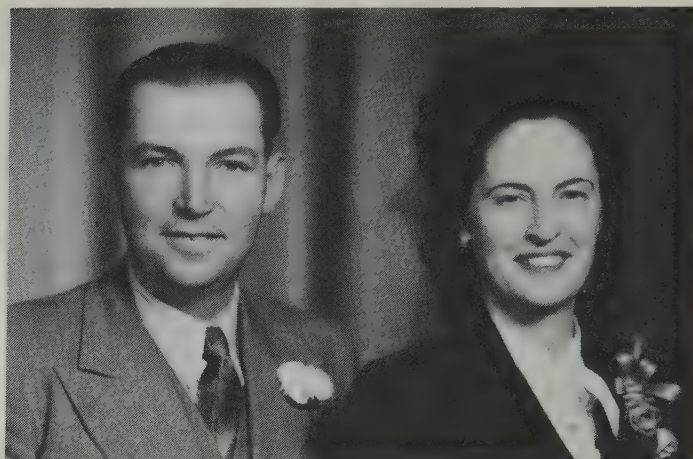
Andrusky, Lyle and Vivian

Lyle Andrusky began teaching High School Biology in Holden in September of 1972. He lived part of the first year in Ryley, then moved to the small apartment on top of Bilyk's store. The next year he moved into the basement of one of the County teacherages. In 1976 he married Vivian Carlson, a local girl who was teaching in Tofield. They continued to live in the teacherage until they moved into their new house at 5215-51 Avenue. They have two children, a daughter Kathryn and a son Kevin.

Appleby, Bert

In 1912 Bert was born to Harry and Christine (Mohs) Appleby on the homestead four miles east of Holden. He attended Longridge and Holden schools. He was a lover of sports, especially baseball, and while taking a sheet metal course in the capital city, he pitched for the Edmonton Dodgers. He joined the

Royal Canadian Air Force, and after going east was transferred to Patricia Bay on Vancouver Island where he spent the rest of his military career. While there he pitched ball for the Air Force team.



Bert and Grace Appleby.

In 1944 he married Grace, daughter of William and Annie (Fitzmaurice) Bruce, of Bruce. They lived in Victoria until Bert got his discharge in 1945 and returned to Holden. He bought the SE 20-49-14 from August Brige, and the NW 17-49-15 from his aunt, Venah Appleby of Tofield. He was an original member of Martin's Rural Electrification Association, so helped in getting local farmers to sign for installation. Bert was also responsible for getting the Vegreville hospital zone extended for the purpose of getting a reduced rate in St. Joseph's Hospital by paying a few extra mills in taxes. Today's health benefits were not available then.

Bert loved to play the violin and sing. His brother Ted and he played in a local orchestra for dances. He made the cakes for most of the childrens' weddings, and forged the heart shaped pans he baked them in. He was a handyman and worked constantly at repairing and renovating the house.

Grace went to Mayflower and Radio schools, and stayed in the convent while she attended St. Martin's high school in Vegreville. After taking Normal School in Camrose, she taught school until she was married, then after an absence of fourteen years from the classroom returned to teach Junior High for twenty-one years in Holden until she retired in 1979. She still substitute teaches, and is a member of several organizations among which are the C.W.L., the parish sub council, Calorie Counters, the Swinging Beavers, and she has sat on the A.T.A. Executive and has held several posts there.

Bert and Grace moved into Holden in 1959. He continued to farm for a few years until he sold out to Verne Gossman and bought the Paragon theatre

which he operated for awhile before grading eggs for each of the local stations until they closed.

About this time semi-retirement involved rising at 4:00 am to enjoy his favourite pastime, fishing. The catch was not of prime importance; it was the testing of a new hook he had spent hours making, or an original bait he had contrived to fool "the big one". His "latent influence" marked many test papers on the shores of the northern lakes on week ends, or at the Dodds pond during the week, as the season for fishing and testing came simultaneously. Hunting was much the same, but at this time Grace would snooze on while Bert and his boys took to the hills. Fortunately the family enjoyed whatever was caught or bagged, for Bert's originality again emerged in the cooking of it.



Appleby family. Standing: Anne and Colleen. Seated: Douglas, Grace, Bert and Bruce.

They had four children who were educated in Longridge and Holden. Anne took most of her high schooling in the F.C.J. convent in Edmonton. She has her B.Ed., M.A., and is a Certified Psychologist. She taught High School English in Holden, Drumheller and Tofield where she also does counselling. Presently due to the birth of their daughter Janene, Anne is working part time only at counselling in the Tofield school. In 1972 she married Floyd Taylor an avid sportsman, teacher and carpenter. He is teaching mathematics and science in Ryley where they live.

Bruce married Mary Anne Krysanowski of Viking in 1968. After trucking for eleven years he became a heavy-truck salesman and it was then the family moved from Fort McMurray to Millwoods where they now reside. Bruce is trucking again, presently at Red Deer. They had three boys, David, Dale and Benjamin, but an accident took the life of their youngest, Benjie, at the age of five years. Mary Anne works for an insurance agency in Edmonton. They all enjoy fishing, skidooing and water skiing.



Colleen, Harvey and David Buksa.

Colleen married a metallurgical engineer, Harvey Buksa of Elk Point in 1972. She had attained her B.Ed. that year and they went to Zambia where Harvey worked in the Kalalushi copper mines and Colleen taught school. They had a three year contract, and on their return Harvey went to work for



Family group. Back Row: Doug Appleby, David Appleby, Grace Appleby, Bruce Appleby. Middle Row: Floyd Taylor holding Janene, Anne Taylor, Debbie Appleby holding Clayton, Mary Anne Appleby, Dale Appleby, Tyler Appleby standing in front.

I.N.C.O. in Sudbury and Colleen taught school. Four years later they moved to Guatemala where they both worked until I.N.C.O. closed the mine at Exmibal and they returned to Sudbury where they now reside, the happy parents of a one year old, David. Colleen is back in university working on a degree in Social Services.

Douglas is a plumber and steam fitter. He married Debra Koetke, a registered nurse who was very active in 4-H and now is involved in community affairs. They both worked in Camrose at their jobs and built a house on an acreage nearby before moving to Viking where Doug set up in his own business, Dee Jay Plumbing. They have two sons, Tyler and Clayton. Doug plays ball and hockey. Both enjoy fishing, and Doug takes time off to go hunting.

In 1981 Bert passed away in the Viking Hospital and is interred in the Holden Cemetery.

Appleby, Thomas and Isabelle

Thomas Appleby, Sr., born in 1845, came from England in the late 1860's with his parents and settled in Ontario, apparently in Bruce County. About 1874 he married Isabelle Beveridge, born in 1855. They were either married in Ontario and moved to Iowa, U.S.A. shortly after, or were married in Iowa. They settled in Storm Lake, probably on a homestead.

Four of their ten children were born there: Myron J. in 1875, Willis R. in 1878, Lottie B. in 1880, and Harry B. in 1884. In 1883, Thomas applied for American citizenship, apparently needing to be an American citizen to get title to a homestead. The family moved to Britton, South Dakota about 1885 and in 1891, Thomas required a copy of his U.S. citizenship, likely to get a homestead in S. Dakota. The family has this copy of his American citizenship. Children born in Britton were Margaret, Archibald, John, Ellen, Thomas and Mary.

The family moved to the North West Territories of Canada (this part to become Alberta in 1905) in 1902 and likely came by rail to Wetaskiwin and by wagon to their homesteads three miles east of the present village of Holden. Myron, Willis and Harry were of age to file on homesteads, so they, with their father, filed on section 16-49-15-W4 — Thomas Sr. on the SW quarter, Harry on the NW quarter, Myron on the NE quarter and Willis on the SE quarter. At the same time, Thomas Sr. bought section 17 for \$3 per acre. This section was CPR land to the west of his homestead. The future home of the Applebys was to be on the SE quarter of this section.

Meanwhile, until a more permanent shelter could be built, the family with another pioneer family, the William Clarks, made do — living in a log house



Thomas Appleby family. Back Row: Margaret, Myron, Willis, Harry, Lottie. Front Row: Jack, Archibald, Thomas Sr. holding Mary, Isabelle, Ellen, Thomas Jr.

with a sod roof on Willis's quarter. This house had a board floor, as did the cellar underneath. Two grandsons, Clifford Appleby and Ted Appleby remember this house which stood for many years. Clifford is the son of Jack Appleby, who bought the land on which it stood after his father's death, and Ted, Harry's son rented and then bought the land in 1945. The permanent home for the Appleby family was located on the quarter west of the homestead of Thomas Sr. Buildings were erected as soon as possible, one of them being used as a temporary home until the two-story log house of logs hauled from the Beaver Hills was built. This house still stands on its original site. One of the first buildings erected was a shop for blacksmith work and repair work, and this facility was an asset to the neighbors as well as the family. The farmstead improved over the early years with buildings, corrals and hog pens, and granaries, as well as a drilled deep-well with a windmill. This deep-well featured a characteristic of many deep-wells in the area — "salt-water".

The Longridge Post Office was in use until 1909, when the new centre of Holden acquired a Post Office. The Longridge Post Office was located at the Appleby home and Thomas Sr. was the first postmaster in the area east of Holden. The family has no record as to the date it was opened.

In their first years on the homestead after moving into the big house, the Appleby family home became a popular centre for dances and parties. People came from distances up to twenty miles by horse-drawn vehicles to their home to dance. The family members and neighbors took turns at providing music for the dancing. These pioneers enjoyed the waltz, polka, schottische, heel and toe polka and square dance until lunch time at midnight, then danced until the early morning hours. The large homes of other pioneers were also gathering places for parties such as this.

Over the years, Thomas and Isabelle opened their home to several young people who were temporarily needing homes, among them Caroline Kennepp, Lottie's daughters — Evelyn and Edith Mohs, and a ward, Nellie Appleby. Caroline married William Buckles and they live in B.C. They have two sons. Nellie suffered ill health and died about 1920.

Thomas died in 1921 and Isabelle died in 1923. They are buried in the Holden cemetery.

Myron

The eldest in the family, Myron farmed his land and proved up on it, renting it to Harry when he decided to open a blacksmith shop in Holden. His shop was on the corner of 50th avenue and 51st street, just south of the creamery. His house was on the

corner across the street south of his shop. He sold the shop and retired about 1940. He died in 1948.

Willis

Willis farmed his homestead and got title to it. However he was bothered with ill health and passed away in 1917.

Lottie

Lottie Appleby married Joseph Mohs about 1908. They farmed south of Holden for some time and later Joe worked for the Massey Harris Company. They had two daughters — Evelyn born in 1909 and Edith in 1912. Lottie died in June, 1914. While living with their grandparents, Evelyn and Edith attended Longridge School. After the death of their grandmother, they moved to Bruce to live with Mary (Appleby) and her husband, Robert Coleman. Evelyn, post-mistress at Bruce for a time, married William Olstead, who died in 1971. Edith, a teacher, married Gus Lentz, who died in 1978. Edith and Evelyn are residents of Edmonton.

Appleby, Harry and Christine

Harry proved up on his homestead and applied for the title to his land in 1905. In those early times, he did breaking with oxen, acquired some horses, improved his land and buildings, and helped the family.



Harry and Christine Appleby's wedding, 1910.

He met his future wife when John and Christine Mohs arrived in 1906 from Great Falls, Montana with five of their twelve children — John, Joseph, Frank, Christine and Veronica. They settled on a homestead about three miles south of the present village of Holden. However, Mr. and Mrs. Mohs returned to Great Falls in 1909, Christine returning with them. The other family members remained — Joseph married Lottie Appleby, Frank married Susan Mumford, Veronica married Guy Sherburne, and John who never married, continued to farm at Holden until he moved to Moon Lake, Alberta.

Myron moved to Holden and he bought it a few years later. He farmed the half section until ill health and age made it necessary for him to rent it. Ted rented it and then bought it when Harry moved into Vialta Lodge at Viking.

Harry and Christine shared in the various activities of the Longridge community. For several years from about 1915, Harry served with August Peterson and William Clark on the Longridge School Board. School meetings were held in turn at the homes of the Board members. Harry was a Charter member of the Alberta Wheat Pool.



Bert, Ted, Harriet and Jean (inset).

Harry Appleby also went to Great Falls, Montana where he worked at the Copper Smelter. He and Christine Mohs were married on June 28, 1910 and they returned to Holden in 1912 with their baby daughter, Harriet. The home they lived in was typical of many of that time, having two stories, with two rooms down and two rooms upstairs. There the other children were born — Bert in 1912, Edwin (Ted) in 1914, Nita in 1924 (she died in 1925), and Jean in 1930.

Harry rented the NE quarter of Sec. 16 when



Crested Wheat Grass — a new forage crop experimentally grown by Harry Appleby and sons Bert and Ted in 1938.

For several years, Harry was the butcher for the local beef ring. The farmers in the district organized the beef ring in the spring to ensure that their families had fresh meat through the warm seasons. They arranged for each farmer to supply a beef of a pre-arranged weight, and Harry butchered and portioned the beef cuts out to each member of the beef ring, and on Saturday morning each family picked up their meat. By the end of the season, each farmer had supplied an animal, paid Harry for his work, and received meat in weight and cuts equivalent to that of his own animal.

Christine was the first President of the Holden Catholic Women's League.

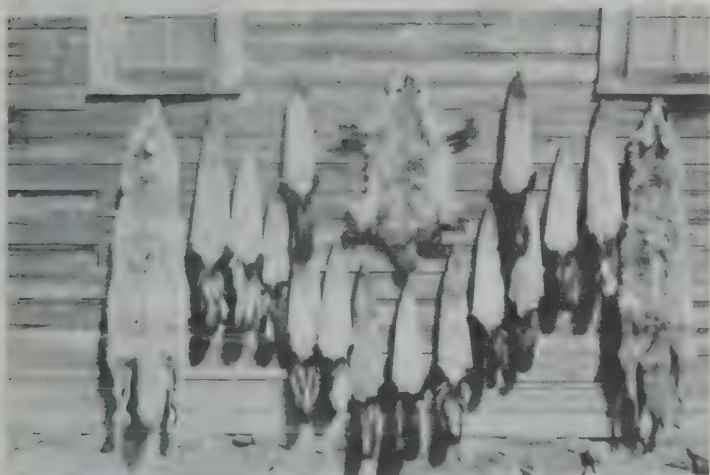
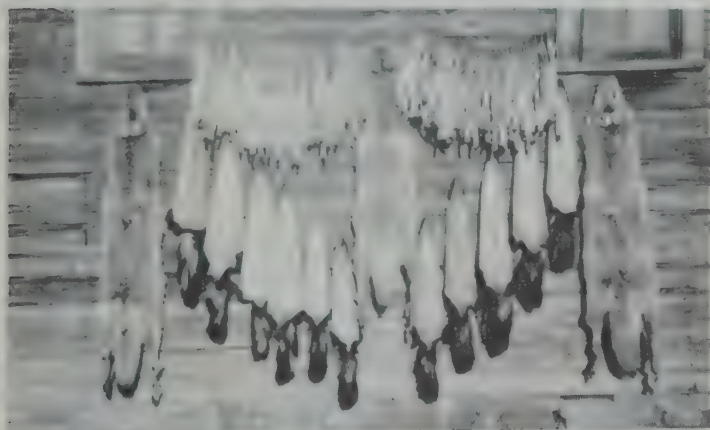
The children of the family attended Longridge School and, in the early years, like the other pupils, used slates for their exercises, carried their lunch to school in a lard or Roger's syrup pail, and walked or rode horseback to school.

In 1918, Harry built a big hip-roofed barn to replace a small log barn. Besides being useful in the usual ways, the hayloft for two or three summers was used for dances. In winter the loft was filled with hay.

Harry and Christine celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1960, with their family, relatives and friends. Christine passed away in 1961 and Harry in 1969.

Their eldest daughter, Harriet, born in Great

Falls, Montana, went to school at Longridge and Holden, and then attended Camrose Normal School in 1928-29. She taught school for 12 years in the Vegreville, Holden and Ryley areas, then worked in Edmonton for the U.S. Air Force for four years during WWII. In 1946 she married Ernest H. Brown, a WWII veteran, merchant and fertilizer dealer, now retired. Harriet taught in the Ryley school for 18 years and retired in 1974. They have a daughter, Patricia, who graduated from the University of Alberta in Pharmacy. Bert's history is elsewhere in this book.



One season's catch by Ted Appleby.

Edwin J. (Ted) was born in 1914 at the family residence east of Holden. He took grade school at Longridge and High School at Holden. He was active in sports, especially baseball, playing continuously with Holden, and with Dodds and Round Hill as well. He hunted and trapped in the late 1930's and had some good catches. He started farming on his own in 1941 on rented land. In 1945 he bought two quarters of the original Appleby homestead land and the other two quarters in 1960. He was married to Vivian Jean Selnes, a secretary-technician at the Holden Health Unit, in 1945 and they lived on the farm until 1971 when they sold out and moved to

Edmonton where Ted worked for several years before his retirement. They have five children. Terry is married to Christina Roelefsen, has two sons and lives in Edmonton. Tharon is married to Keith Albrecht, has three children, and lives in Vernon, B.C. Arden is married to Judy Choma, has two children and lives on an acreage near Edmonton. Marvin is married to Lorraine Kavich, has three children and lives in Edmonton. Glenn is unmarried and lives in Edmonton. Ted passed away in 1982. The second daughter, Jean, attended school at Longridge and Holden. She married Ronald Robinson and lived in Holden a short time before moving to Edmonton. During the last twenty years, Jean has been caring for foster children and providing day care for the city and the Provincial Government. Ron has been a maintenance mechanic for Northwest Industries for thirty years. They have five children — Brian, Kathleen, Dennis, Wendy and Gordon.

Margaret May Appleby was born in Britton, S.D. in 1886. She went to Alberta college in 1908, receiving education which gave her the authority to teach by permit. She taught at Flint S.D. at Hurry, Alberta (now Bruce), at Lakeshore S.D. north of Tofield, and at Ketchamoot S.D. south of Tofield. She was married to Alfred Schultz in 1910. As a bride she came to live in the Ketchamoot district. They had four children Russel, Harold, Alvin and Helen. Margaret passed away in 1922. Helen died in 1982.

Archibald C. Appleby was born in Britton S.D. in 1888. He farmed in the Longridge area for many years. During WWI he enlisted in the army. Arch proved up on his homestead NE ¼ 14-49-16 and got the title in 1908. He later sold it for \$1000 to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to be used with the NW ¼ 14-49-16 as the site for the present village of Holden. He passed away in 1947.



Jack and Venah Appleby and sons Clifford and Keith.

John Appleby, better known as Jack, was also born at Britton in 1890. He trapped muskrats as a boy and got five to eight cents a pelt, made his own skis of birch wood. He used his good team to transport the doctor on calls. Jack also owned some good coyote hounds.

Jack and Venah Ricker were married in 1918 in Edmonton and resided near Tofield. They had two sons, Clifford and Keith. Keith passed away at the age of thirty seven. There are eight grandchildren of whom Kenneth living on the home farm is the eldest.

In the earliest days at Holden, much of the breaking was done with oxen, Jack spoke of this — it was slow work and often the plow would get stuck in a large root. This meant that it had to be chopped free by hand. The oxen would lie down in the harness and to get them mobile again, men would gather up the dry grass, put it beside the animals and set it on fire.
Ellen Appleby — see Gossman story.

Thomas M. Appleby was born at Britton in 1896. He farmed the home place with Arch in their parents' later years and after they passed away. Eventually they both left Holden, Tommy moving to Westeros, Alberta. He married and had one son. After his wife's death he moved to Wetaskiwin. He passed away in 1976 and is buried in Wetaskiwin.

Mary Jane Appleby, born in 1899, married Robert Coleman of Edmonton in 1922. They farmed near Bruce until 1941 when they moved to Vancouver, B.C. They had four sons all born at Viking, Everett (Bud), Roy, Jack and Ross. Bud and Roy reside in Vancouver area. Jack and Ross are deceased. Mary Coleman lives in a nursing home in the Vancouver area.

A Tribute To The Late M. J. Appleby by Jack Houston "The Pioneer Blacksmith"

'Tis nigh on forty years
Since first I heard his anvil ring,
This pioneer village blacksmith
Was something near a king.

He was the centre pivot
In that early pioneer plan.
A hundred miles inland
From where the railroad ran.

Plows, democrats and wagons,
Just homestead settler's junk,
Whiffletrees and oxen yokes
On Myron they would dump.

From Atlantic to Pacific
Trade marks from every state.
All came on to Myron
When repairs they had to make.

The family clock or broken lock
Or old time spinning wheel
They'd bring it all to Myron
At the court of last appeal.

He has pounded out the iron
When coal could not be got,
From charcoal he had gathered
On his homestead wooded lot.

He has waited on your Daddies
When they didn't have to pay
From springtime to December,
Then on again to May.

That's our old time village blacksmith
First in Holden town,
The old man planted yesterday
In the family burial ground.

His anvil now is silent
After the last ding-dong
Of our early Holden blacksmith
Pioneer of a noble throng.

I think the good St. Peter
Will sound a heavenly bell
And tell his sub-lieutenants
To treat old Myron well.

Armstrong, George

George Wesley Armstrong was born in 1909, son of John and Mary Armstrong, who were early pioneers of the Ryley-Holden districts. He married Clara Holden who was born in 1917, daughter of George and Tilda Holden, a pioneer family of the South Holden district. George and Clara farmed north of Holden for a number of years and then



Clara, George, Wesley and Mervyn.

George went into business with Hilmer Olsen, a bulk gas dealership, known as Olsen and Armstrong. They served the farming community around Holden for many years.

George passed away in 1976. He was living in Red Deer at the time. Clara resides in Penticton, B.C.

Clara and George had two sons; Mervyn, born in 1939, married Eleanor Laskoski of Holden in 1960. They live in Red Deer, where Mervyn is a member of the Fire Department. They have two children, Wanda



Wesley Armstrong on a bicycle made of a bed frame.

and Craig. Wesley, born in 1940, is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, presently stationed at Cold Lake, Alberta. He was married in 1962 at Zwiebrucken, Germany to Marlene Grant of Vancouver, B.C. who was also a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Their two children are Kelly Ann and Todd.

Armstrong, John Clinton and Hazel

Hazel Ovida Grosland was born north of Holden at the Grosland homestead in 1910. She attended school at Holmdene north of Holden and High School at Ryley. She remained at home until marrying John Clinton Armstrong in 1936. They had five girls. Clint and Hazel died in an automobile accident near Nampa, Alberta in 1971.

When first married, they lived on a farm northwest of Holden for five years, then moved to Holden



Clint and Hazel.

when Clint joined the army. When he came home he worked as a barber at the Holden Pool Hall and later did carpenter work, working for the Holden School board and then Giebelhaus Construction. He was barbering at the Holden Pool Hall at the time of his death.

Hazel worked outside the home after the girls were grown. She worked for the Holden Health Unit for a number of years and then baby sat for Harold and Audre Giebelhaus. She was unemployed at the time of her death.

Their five daughters, who all grew up in Holden, attended school here, also the United Church Sunday School and were members of C.G.I.T., Brownies and Girl Guides.

Joan, born in 1937, married Irving Bablitz in 1956. They are living on a farm near Bruce, Alberta. Their children are: Mona, who died in an automobile accident near Fort Macleod, Alberta in 1976. Dean married to Lydia Miller, is living on a farm near Bruce, Bonnie, Grant and Brent (who died in 1966 after a short illness).

Deanna, born in 1938, married William Sawers in 1955. They are living at High River, where Bill is a car salesman and Deanna clerks at Sears in Calgary. Their children are: Brenda (Mrs. Jim Chapman), Cathy married to Dale Enns, Charlene (Mrs. Paul Blomquist), Billie Lou (Mrs. Lee Laskoski), Lynn and Laurie. Deanne and Bill have five grandchildren.

Ardina, born in 1939, married Bruce Armitage in 1957. They are living at Peace River, Alberta, where Bruce works for A.G.T. and Ardina works at the



Armstrong girls. Back Row: Joan, Ardina, Deanna. Front Row: Ardith and Arlene (twins).

Peace River Hospital. Their children are: Douglas married to Kori Nichols, Gregory and Karen.

Ardith, born in 1943, married Edward Dutka in 1963. They live at Ponoka where Edward works at a lumber yard and Ardith as a secretary. They have two girls and one boy. Tracy married to Terry Pugh, Carmen and Sheldon.

Arlene, (Ardith's twin) married Eugene Shtokal in 1962 and they live in Vegreville, Gene works for Northwestern Utilities and Arlene is secretary at the Provincial Court House. Their children are: Brian and Brenda.

Armstrong, Norman

Norman, eldest son of John and Mary Armstrong was born in Cumberland, Russell County, Ontario in 1891. The family lived in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Victoria before finally settling on a farm in the Thule district northeast of Ryley, Alberta. There Norman met and married Otta Knudslie and they moved to the R. Malcolm farm north of Holden in 1920. One day Otta, thinking her first born was safe for a few minutes, ran out to milk the cow. When she returned she found Edward hanging (quite safely) by the seat of his pants from a nail on the wall. She never did figure out how he got there. In 1924 they lived for a time on the Tom Phillips farm where Olive was born. When Norman found he was spending more time away from home doing mechanical work than farming, he decided to rent Dr. Farrel's garage in town where the family lived upstairs for awhile. He also sold Minneapolis Moline machinery there. Next they lived in the Follinsbee house (now owned by Joe Sroka) and Norman worked in George Black's garage. The depression made changes for everyone, the garage closed down and the family lived for quite some time on Pete Sorenson farmstead one half mile



Norman and Otta Armstrong.

north of the school. Norman had a welding and mechanic business in the back of the A. K. James farm machinery dealership.

In his spare time over the years, Norman studied and got steam engineer papers, became a qualified electrician and also took up refrigeration. As a young man he played baseball and was very adept with the accordion and violin which he played at dances. He was an ardent curler and many years later, skipped a Sedgewick rink to the Old Timers' Championship in Edmonton. Otta, besides being a terrific mother, was very active in church and community work. They raised four children, Edward, Olive, Gladys and Viola. In 1942 they moved to Sedgewick where Norman was employed as a mechanic for a fleet of Northern Alberta Dairy Pool trucks. Edward, however, had begun working for Calgary Power and was in southern Alberta. He married Edna Bader from Medicine Hat and they have two daughters, Karen and Joanne. They live in Calgary where Ed is in the Calgary Power office.

Olive was working in the Royal Bank when the family left so didn't go to Sedgewick until almost a year later. After a year in the Bank of Montreal there, she went to Edmonton to take a hairdressing course. She then came back to Holden and opened Olive's Beauty Salon over Greenwood's Drugstore. (See Ernest Good story.) Gladys graduated from the Misericordia Hospital of Nursing, worked for a time before becoming Mrs. Jim Clarke of Sedgewick. They have six children: Allen of Calgary, Carol of Sedgewick, Reginald of Camrose, Nadine of Edmonton, Bradley and Gregory both of Sedgewick. Viola worked in an office at Woodward's in Edmon-

ton before marrying Warren Clarkson of Edmonton. They have four children: Brenda, Stanley, Randolph and James all of Edmonton.

Otta passed away in 1963 and Norman in 1977. Norman, at 85 yrs. was still working on refrigerators and motors and kept the machines in the laundromat in Sedgewick in good working order. He spent his last few years living at the Senior Citizens' Lodge but kept his house for a workshop.

Armstrong, Tom and Meta

Tom Armstrong was born at Estevan, Saskatchewan in 1907, the son of John and Mary Armstrong. In the family there were three girls and five boys, namely Lila, Minerva, Violet, Norman, Noble, Clinton, Tom and George. At the time of writing all are deceased but Tom and Violet (Mrs. E. Jacobson of Ryley, Alberta). In the spring of 1908 the family moved from Estevan to Victoria and lived there for one year before moving to Strathcona, Alberta. They moved in 1910 to the Ryley district, where the father of the family, John Armstrong passed away in 1916 after a lengthy illness.



Grandma Mary Armstrong.

1922 was the year the Armstrongs moved to the Holden district renting the Tom Phillips farm and the Bill McVittie farm in 1925. By this time the girls had married and left home, as well as three of the boys. Clinton, Tom and George, along with their mother bought the "Berg" place, three and a half miles north east of Holden. This was N.E. ¼ 30-49-15 W4. Clinton and George later bought property of their own and were married and moved away from the home place. Tom and his mother continued to farm until 1943, when Mrs. Armstrong moved into Hold-



Thomas Armstrong, 1927.

en to a house she had built on Clinton's property near Holden school.

In 1939 Tom was married to Meta Lamb and they farmed the home place until 1948. They then sold out and moved to Penticton, B.C. for two years. At that time Tom became an employee of C.P.R. in the Ogden Shops in Calgary for the next sixteen and a half years. Tom and Meta have two children, Phyllis and Dale.

Phyllis married George Fabian of Calgary and live on a farm at Trochu, Alberta. They are employed by the Three Hills School Division. They have four children:

Merryanne (Mrs. Greg Weich), Georgina, Calvin and Brenda.

Dale married Gail Scott of Mossleigh, Alberta. They live in California. Dale has won distinction in Drag Racing, winning many national events in his twenty-five year racing career. He is also chief mechanic for another driver.

Tom and Meta are now retired and have returned to Penticton to live.

Augustine, Hjalmar by Harry Johnson

Hjalmar Augustine, together with his wife Marren, homesteaded the N.E. 6-48-16 in early 1905. Later he purchased the S.E. ¼ of that same section from a bachelor by the name of Mr. Kelly. They had one son, Sigurd, who married Olive Webb. Olive and Sigurd, while they were living in Holden, had a



Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmar Augustine.

baby who died in infancy in the early 1920's. They also had a son Donald, now living in Eastern Canada.

Hjalmar and Marren also had a daughter, Valberg, who married Alfred Sanderson. Valberg died in 1923 after giving birth to a baby girl, Lorraine. Olive and Sigurd took the baby and raised her. They lived with Alfred Sanderson for a number of years on Dr. Farrell's farm north of Holden. Sigurd bought a farm just north of there. Lorraine now lives in Edmonton.

Hjalmar died at home in 1937. His wife moved in with Sigurd and Olive.

Augustynovich Family by K. Augustynovich

In 1902 Dmytro and Tekla Augustynovich came to Canada from Chornkiwiec, Western Ukraine, and homesteaded nine miles northwest from Holden. Circumstances forced Dmytro to go to work on the railroad at Medicine Hat, to which he made the trip by walking, while Tekla stayed with her parents, the Bartmans, who had come to Canada at the same time. Dmytro started farming with oxen and later purchased horses.

The Augustynovich family had seven children, Maria born in Ukraine, married Mike Chubay; Alex married Katherine Zaseybida; Annie married Tony Macahonic; Pauline, Wm. Kachman; Sophie, Mike Budinski; Nancy, Peter Zaroslak; Jenny, John Chamulke.



Augustonovich, Dmytro and Tekla with granddaughter Jane.

Later Alex and Katherine continued with the farming where they reared a family of four. Lelia married Malcom Barr, and holds a position as deputy-manager of foreign political news in Washington, D.C. Lloyd, married to Diane Uniat, has two children, Del and Derek. He trucks for an oil company at



Nancy and Jennie going to school.

Innisfree. Veneta, a lawyer, married Dennis Roth. They have two children Keery and John, and reside in Edmonton. Emily, married to Ken Boyer, lives in Edmonton, and works with handicapped children. They have two children Keith and Karen.

Alex and Katherine retired in Vegreville in 1974, where Alex passed away in 1976 at the age of 72 years.

Autio, Alyce Kane

Good old Vermillion Valley district and school, and the dear people I met while there! I arrived in Holden the last of August 1937 and was met with a friendly hand shake from Bernt Chetney and taken

out to the Chetney home where I was warmly welcomed, fed and given a cozy room upstairs that had been vacated by Ethel and Olive for my convenience. It was my first experience away from my immediate family, and after they had launched me with their blessings, a lonely train ride from Calgary to Edmonton where I had to find another to take me to Holden. I must say it did away with all the butterflies to find myself in such a warm and hospitable atmosphere as the Chetney home provided. The school board had made arrangements for me to take up residence in a big house about ¼ mile back in the field behind the school. They had securely boarded off the upstairs and downstairs leaving me with two rooms to call home. One was comfortably furnished by the kind people in the district for me to live in and the other was a room where I shoved everything that I did not need to live with — my supply of coal was in one corner of it. But it was that room that was turned into a party room a few times when fun-loving Inga Chetney organized surprise parties and the good people of the district gathered for a social evening. How well I remember the entertainment provided by Kenneth Sorgen as he strummed his guitar and sang.

No one now would believe how I carried two pails of water from the school back to the house — sometimes in the evening, sometimes Saturday and Sunday to store for baths and washing and how I'd hang clothes out at night on the fence and bush, then get up early to take them in so one one would see them out there. And how often I was happy to see those huge snow banks because each morning I'd tackle them and bring in chunks and dump them into a tub Mrs. Chetney had provided. When it melted I strained out the weeds and hay through one of my mother's good pillow cases and enjoyed the soft water.

Everyone thought I lived alone in that big house but I didn't. There were other tenants — three or four ghosts haunted the upstairs, I'm certain. Evenings when I would be preparing lessons or correcting books and all was quiet, or after I had gone to bed, I could hear dancing and the heel-and-toe polka up there. They were not very friendly and never came down to visit and I never volunteered to join in the dance. Spring and fall months they seemed to be away on vacation but during the winter nights they had their fun.

Many of my pupils walked to school and were seldom late. Absenteeism was unnoticeable and discipline problems nil. Parents were so co-operative in all ways and I thoroughly enjoyed my two years there. Lawrence Ritland reminds me of one morning when I did not put in an appearance at school and he rode back to investigate. I had "slept in" — could be

my alarm clock had frozen up! I can remember chipping ice on the top of my water pail many mornings. Thanks to a neat little heater that Mr. Chetney had provided, it did not take long before both I and the water pail were "thawed out".

Many of the dearest and best friends I have known I met while in the Holden area, and I still keep in touch and occasionally see many of them. It was a pleasure to be remembered at the Vermillion Valley School Reunion in June 1981 and a delight to meet so many of my friends and ex-pupils.

Babie, Paul Joseph and Olga **by Lorraine Koblanski**

Paul Joseph Babie was born in Ukraine in 1902. In his youth after years of heavy toil and some joys of accomplishment he came to Canada where he heard things were better. He settled with his parents (Joseph and Anna Babie) on their farm (SW-19-50-15-4) near



Paul and Olga Babie.

Holden. Paul worked hard on his parents' farm helping construct a log and plaster home and other necessary farm buildings. After spading up a well, he, like other new settlers assisted in digging rocks, pulling tree trunks and roots and breaking new land to be plowed and harrowed and disced with the aid of two horses. Later he was employed in carpentry for the neighbours and then helped build the monastery for the Basilian Fathers in Mundare, Alberta.

Paul's wife, Olga, was born in Hilliard, Alberta in 1910. Her parents were Nick and Helen Kobylanska and her father was first cousin to the great world renowned Ukrainian writer, Olga Kobylanska who lived in the Ukraine from 1863 to 1942. After completing her education in Hilliard, Olga moved to Edmonton and was employed at the MacDonald Hotel.

Paul met Olga at a dance in Hilliard in 1931, and a few weeks later married her. Paul and Olga took residence in Hilliard where he was employed by the Searle Grain Company from 1931 to 1945. In 1940 they bought a general store in Hilliard where Olga clerked while Paul worked for the grain company. Their ambition brought in an egg grading station to serve the people.

Paul was very gifted with crafts and did many paintings and carvings. He even made little delights like whistles from willow twigs and taught his children and others the art of playing them. In 1935, he won a scholarship to the Banff School of Fine Arts for a self taught drawing of a dog sketched in black ink. This picture is now a family heirloom. Due to the difficulties of the "Dirty Thirties Depression", Paul could not afford to take advantage of this scholarship, as it would have meant added expenses as well as separation from his family.

In 1945, after selling all their business assets, Paul and Olga moved to Edmonton, where over the years they operated a number of businesses. In 1965 they purchased the hotel in Holden which they operated until 1970. In all their business endeavors, Olga unyieldingly worked alongside Paul and in addition was always a devoted mother and homemaker.

In 1970, Paul and Olga retired from Holden and purchased an apartment building on Edmonton's south side.

Paul and Olga are active members of St. Basil's Parish in Edmonton and enjoy entertainment evenings at St. Basil's Pioneer Centre. They toiled unitedly for many years and now enjoy remembrances of get togethers for dances and community concerts and teas. Many times Olga played her mandoline and happy lively guests would dance and sing. Memories of the odd poker game and of some home brew during prohibition times lingers in their minds.

Paul and Olga are now urged to retire and enjoy a leisurely life.

Their Children:

Cornel married Yvonne Fobes, they have two children, Todd and Nicole. He owned General Motorships in Edmonton and Peace River, and now owns one in Victoria B.C. where he is active in community affairs. In addition he is consultant for Ocean Ecology Limited in Vancouver advising on more efficient carburator marine engines.

Lorraine married pharmacist, Anthony Romaniuk in 1953. She graduated from University of Alberta with a degree in education. Their children are Terrance, David and Douglas. Lorraine is now married to John Kolblanski, a research scientist, and resides in Vancouver.

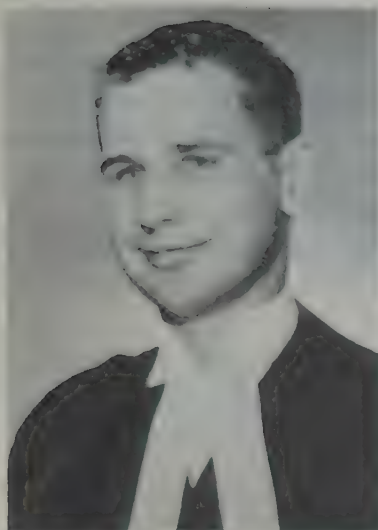


Cornell and Yvonne (Fobes) Babie.



Lorraine Romaniuk's (Babie) graduation.

Theodore is married to Marjorie Uniak, a graduate nurse from Calgary. He has a law practice there where he also owns a Ford dealership. He has two children, Paul and Colleen.



Theodore Babie.

Babie, William and Jennie

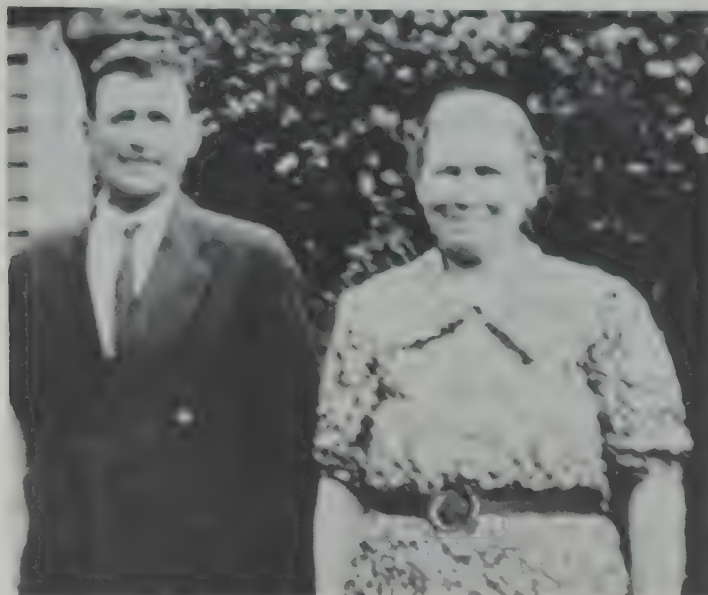
William (Bill) Babie grew up with his parents (Joseph and Anna Babie) on their farm seven miles north of Holden. He attended Marconi school. In 1946 he went to work in a machinery shop in Holden. He married Jennie Faryna in 1949. Jennie lived on a farm with her parents (Prokop and Maria Faryna) two miles north of Holden. In 1963 Bill and Jennie moved to Vegreville. In 1966 they moved to Smoky Lake to operate their own tire business. They have four children: Sharon, Wendy, Marie-Ann and Timothy. Sharon graduated in pharmacy in 1977. She married Avery Temofychuk and they are living in Edmonton. Wendy and daughter Romanda Hansen live in B.C., and Marie-Ann is a computer clerk living in Edmonton, and Timothy is attending high school in Smoky Lake.



William and Jennie Babie.

Babiy, Joseph and Anna

Joseph and Anna (nee Suss) came to Canada from the village of Belia, province of Chorthiw, in about 1910. He worked for many years on the railroads in Alberta. Unable to bring his family to Canada because of the war, he went back to the old country in 1921.



Joseph and Anna Babie.

He returned to Alberta in 1922, and Anna and three children followed in April of 1923. Mary was 16, Simeon 12 and Wasyl 1. Dora the oldest daughter and her husband, Fred Hewko, came a few years later. Paul, who was 18, came with his uncle the year before. In 1924 Joseph bought S.W. 1/4 19-50-15, seven miles north of Holden from John Brown, located next to the Orville Thompsons. Joe and Anna retired from farming in 1946 and lived their remaining years at Mundare.

Paul is married to Olga Kobylanska (see their story). Mary farmed with her husband, Joe Sadowsky. She is now widowed, living in Edmonton. Sam married Pearl Tymchak and moved to Vancouver in the 1930's. He passed away in 1969. William married Jennie Faryna (see their story).

Baraniuk, John

John Baraniuk who was born in Poland, came to Canada in 1919. He hauled coal in Winnipeg before coming west to Alberta. In 1929 he married Florence Anhill. They farmed south of Poe on SW 1/4 8-49-16 and had three children, Helen, Martha and William. In the spring of 1949 they made their home at Poe.

Helen attended school at Talbot and Shaw. In 1948 she married Walter Stefura. They had two children, a son David and a daughter Dianne (Mrs. Brett Barber). Helen remarried in 1960. She and her hus-

band, Jess Wollman have one daughter Debbie. Helen now makes her home in Poe.

Martha attended school at Talbot. In 1954 she married Marion Marcinkoski of Bruce. They have two children, a daughter Sandra (Mrs. Steve Wilson) and a son Rick, and one grandchild. Martha resides in Vermilion.

William attended school at Talbot, South Lake, Shaw and Poe. In 1961, he married Karen Sorensen of Ryley. They had three sons Byron, Kevin and Sidney. William remarried in 1969. He and his wife Wanda (Brown) have four children, William, Tammy, Gregory and Cory. William now makes his home in Poe.

John Baraniuk passed away in 1958 at the age of 66 years. Florence Baraniuk passed away in 1979 at the age of 71 years.

Baraniuk, John

John, the youngest son of Wawro and Paranka Baraniuk was twelve years old when his father died.

In 1938 he married Ann, daughter of Nick and Mary Maniowski of Mundare. They moved from his parents' homestead to a farm near Vegreville, where they lived until 1954. They farmed east of Holden until 1960, after which they bought a cafe in Holden. Six years later John passed away at the age of fifty. Ann continued in the restaurant business, and also operated a "drive-in" concession with her children and her brothers, Peter and Paul Maniowski.



John Baraniuk family. Anne, John, Eleanor, Richard and Margaret.

John and Ann had three children; Marge, married Mike Lucas and they had six children; Don, Lori, Shelley, Todd and twins Nicole and Carrie. They operated a hotel in Round Hill. Her husband passed away in 1978. Marge married Joe Kozack in 1978 and they reside in Round Hill.

Eleanor married John Ogonoski, who is employed at the Holden School. They have one son, Jason.

Richard and his wife Lannas live in Sherwood Park. Their children are Stephan and Tammy. Richard drives a transport truck to Houston and other points across the border.

Baraniuk, Wawro, Family

Wawro and Paranka Baraniuk, immigrated to the Borschiw district from Borschiw in Halychyna, Ukraine, at the turn of the century. Their homestead was located three miles west of Borschiw Church. Wawro had three children from a previous marriage, they were: Lena (Ogrodnick), Annie (Kostik) and Paul. Wawro and Paranka's children were: Mary (Mushinski), Nancy (Hrabec), Dorothy (Hrabec), Victoria (Pidoborozny), Margaret (Dackiw), Peter, Bill and John. The children all attended Togo School.

Barlow, Alex

Alex Barlow followed his brother Pursey to Canada in 1911. Pep, as Pursey was often called, and Alex took to homesteading together. In 1923 when Pep and Dora were married they moved onto their own land. Alex continued to farm the original homestead for many years until he sold his land and retired to the hamlet of Poe. When his health began to fail he moved to Beth and Ernie's farm at Viking continuing



Pursey, Dorothy and Alex Barlow — 1919.

to make visits to his other nieces in Spirit River, Calgary, Valleyview and Edmonton. He went back to England with Pep and Dora in 1961. He also took a second trip back in 1972. He was a great story teller and enjoyed the company of family and friends even though he remained a bachelor all his life. Alex passed away in 1980 and is buried in Holden Cemetery.

Barlow, George Pursey **by Connie MacDougall (Barlow)**

George Pursey was born in Selby, Yorkshire, England, 1889 to Matilda Dean and Thomas G. P. Barlow. He left England for Canada in 1909. In the early days he worked as a farm hand around Holden district.

In the meantime back in England, Dad's brother Ernest, who had trained as a first class jeweller and silversmith, died at the age of twenty-one. Grandpa having no one to take over his jewellery business decided to sell it and immigrate to Canada as well, since a second son Alex, had come in 1911 and was homesteading here with Pursey. So in 1912 Thomas G. P. and Matilda Dean with children Dorothy and Edith arrived in Canada leaving behind one son, Farrand. Pursey left his spring seeding to meet their train in Winnipeg, on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. However his parents were booked on the Canadian Pacific so they travelled separately back to Edmonton where they met and travelled together to Holden. Grandpa Barlow busied himself with gardening in his adopted land and seemed to enjoy

driving horses. Coming from a three-story house with two bathrooms must have been difficult for all of them, however no one complained and everyone pitched in to improve the homestead N.E. 12-49-16. To add to their many hardships Edith passed away at the age of nineteen with tuberculosis. They also lost two babies, Edna and Ethel. The "flu" hit them as well but with Grandma's tender loving care all the rest pulled through.

Dad and Uncle Alex farmed together and worked for other farmers. When Pursey was working for the Campbells he met Dora Ada Meakes (a sister of Mrs. Norman Campbell) who had also emigrated from England. Dora and Pursey were married in Edmonton at All Saints Cathedral in 1923.

Pursey had filed on a homestead about a hundred miles west of Edmonton in the Greencourt area. He had driven his team of oxen down Jasper Avenue and west to Greencourt. Dora would not make the move so he let his lease go back. Then they homesteaded in the Poe School District, next to Uncle Alex. They now had a section of land as they purchased a Hudson Bay quarter. Grandpa Barlow died and is buried in the Holden Cemetery. Grandma lived on the farm with Uncle Alex for many years. Fond memories of her will always be in our hearts. Nearly every day we visited her and received treats. We especially enjoyed her "curry" (currant) bread. Later she moved to Holden and lived in a little house next to her daughter Dorothy until she passed away in 1939.

In 1925 Constance Mary was born to Dora and Pursey. It was in 1928 that Mother and I (Connie) journeyed back to Mother's home in England, as Grandma Meakes was quite ill. It was here that my sister Muriel Dean Lucy was born on January 1, 1929. It was a rough trip back across the ocean for Mother, but as a four year old I had the run of the boat. The cook would take me with him to throw the left overs to the sea birds. Uncle Farrand's fourteen year-old son, Little Pursey, as he was known, even though he later grew to six feet, accompanied Dora back to Alberta.

Then came the Wall Street crash. Eggs were a nickel a dozen. Cream wasn't much better. We always had cows, pigs, sheep and chickens so work was never done. We took the cream, eggs and butter to town by buggy in exchange for a few groceries. Muriel and I usually got our weekly treat of a five cent ice cream cone. One summer day as we were returning home a hailstorm struck. Mother put a tanned hide over Muriel and me. The hailstones bounced off the hide but gave us many a good tap on the head. The faithful old horse Buck put his head down and took us home. Mother's face was scratched and bleeding from the hailstones. What a sight met



Grandma Barlow, Pursey and Dora on wedding day.

our eyes when we got home! Strewn all over the yard were dead chicks and turkeys. The storm arrived so quickly the mother hens couldn't get their broods inside the coop.

Mother told me our fare some winters was turnips, lard and meat. We raised our own animals so usually had mutton, beef, pork or chicken. If we had company on Sunday, the butter would be given to the guests, and we made do with lard or drippings for a spread on bread for the rest of the week.



Dora, Pursey, Muriel, Beth and Dorothy.

In 1933 Elizabeth Rose Dora came to join our family, followed by George William Pursey in 1935. He only lived one month. The last member of our family arrived in 1937, Sarah Dorothy.

We walked two and a half miles north to Poe School. When I was ready for grade nine we went to Talbot School which was the same distance south. It was great when Dad could afford a bicycle for us. The other girls sometimes rode horseback. All of us took our high school in Holden, then attended the University of Alberta getting training for teaching.



Ethel Farrand, (?), Connie, Pursey and Dora Barlow.

Connie moved north to Spirit River where she taught for twenty-eight years. It was here she met and married a farmer, Arthur MacDougall. They had three girls, Constance Marilyn, Sandra Lee, and Linda Margaret. Connie and Arthur have six grandchildren.

Muriel married Edward Ernest Anderson of Warmly, Saskatchewan. Ted worked as an oil production accountant. They had five children namely: James, Douglas, Kathy, David and Samuel. Muriel received her B. Ed. and teaches in Calgary where they reside. Tragedy struck when their son David was killed in a motor cycle accident. They have one grand daughter.

Beth married Ernest D. Merta of Viking. They farm and Beth has taught in Viking for thirteen years. Their family consists of Barbara, Robert, Wesley and Kevin. They have two grandchildren.

Dorothy married Barney Sigurdson of Winnipeg. They have a family of three: Karen, Lori and Curtis. Dorothy who teaches took a year off to get her degree. Barney has a sheet metal business in Valleyview.

Getting back to Mother and Dad, who remained on the farm for many years. In 1961, they, along with Uncle Alex, journeyed back to England. They sold the land and moved to the outskirts of Holden where they had a large garden. Dad served as a member for Holden on the School Division Board. In 1967 Mother had a stroke and died. Dad passed away at Viking Hospital in 1971 and was laid to rest in Holden Cemetery beside Mother, Grandma, Grandpa, Edith and infant son George Pursey.

Banack, Ludick

by Ludick Banack

I was born in Camrose in 1921 and raised on a farm eight miles northeast of there. I attended school at Dinant for eight years. In the winter we drove the three and a half miles to school with horses and a "closed in" sleigh and during the summer we walked. In my younger years I worked for local farmers and also helped my dad farm during the war. In 1947 I went to work for the C.P.R. and worked for them for two and a half years.

In 1949 I married Pauline Fischer of Camrose, who was born in 1931 in Scott, Saskatchewan.

In the fall of 1950 I started as a helper with the United Grain Growers in Camrose. Five months later I was laid off for a short time, then was sent to Perryvale where we spent six years. In 1957 I was transferred to Mearns and in 1972 to Holden where we lived for seven years. In 1979 I was transferred again, to Nisku, where we reside at the present time, and where we plan to stay until retirement.



Ludick Banack family. Standing: Bob, Darin, Susan, Tom, Veronica, Wayne. Sitting: Rose Marie holding Jennifer, Ludick, Pauline and Jacqueline.

Pauline and I were blessed with five children: Rose Marie, Tom, Wayne, Jacqueline and Darin.

Rose Marie was born in Camrose in 1950. She attended school at Perryvale, Mearns, Riviere Qui Barre and St. Albert. After completing school she worked as a receptionist for several survey companies and then became a dancing instructor at Arthur Murray Studio where she worked for eight years. She met Bob Nielson, who had worked for Arthur Murray for eleven years and they were married in Edmonton in 1978. Bob is now employed at the Archers Den in Edmonton. Rose is a full time mother, looking after Jennifer, and a second child is expected in 1984.

Thomas was born in 1954 in Athabasca. He attended school at Mearns, Riviere Qui Barre, Morinville, St. Albert and Holden. He started his apprenticeship as a plumber in Camrose and later became employed at Tower Plumbing and Heating in Vegreville. He attended Patricia Campus in Edmonton where he received his plumbing and gas fitting certificate. During this time he met Susan Hughston of Vegreville, and they were married in 1983. Tom is presently working at the Alberta Environment Centre in Vegreville and Susan at the Treasury Branch.

Wayne was born in 1957 in Athabasca. He attended school at Mearns and Riviere Qui Barre, and took his high school in Holden. He began his apprenticeship as a tinsmith with Hank Keller at Holden, and then went to work for Burmac in Camrose, where he is still employed. He attended school at Patricia Campus in Edmonton and received his certificate. In 1980 he married Veronica Stefanizyn of Bruce, his high school sweetheart. They live in Camrose, where Veronica is employed as a secretary for the Roman Catholic Church.

Jacqueline was born in 1964 in the Westlock hos-

pital. She attended school at Riviere Qui Barre, Holden, and finished her high school in Leduc. She is presently employed at Boston Pizza at Leduc.

Darin was born in 1966 at Westlock. He attended school at Riviere Qui Barre, Holden, and is completing his high school in Leduc. He works part time at the I.G.A. at Leduc.

Pauline and I are enjoying our family, and get together often, for a weekend of camping and fishing at a lake.

Baydala, Nick

by Katherine (Baydala) Rozak

My father, Nykola (Nick) Baydala, was born in the county of Yavoriw in 1886, but lived in Malniwska Volya in the county of Mostyska, Ukraine. He was the youngest in a family of three sons and one daughter. When Nick was nine years old, his father died, and to contribute to the meagre family income, Nick had to work for the neighbors.



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Baydala.

At the age of eighteen Nick went to work in Germany. In 1905 he arrived in Canada on the steamship Michigan, destination Winnipeg, as a twenty year old laborer. Because the immigration hall in Winnipeg was overcrowded, a group including Nick were taken to Selkirk, Manitoba, where he remained for four years. In 1909, he came to Vegreville because he heard there was a Ukrainian community here.

Six years later, in 1915, he married Mary Melesko. I was born in 1916 on a farm near Borschiw Church, delivered by Mrs. Petryga. My mother died of the Spanish influenza in 1918. During the epidemic, formal funerals were not allowed, so only four persons attended the funeral.

In 1920 Nick married Anne Goshko, daughter of Yakim (James) Goshko of Inland, Alberta, who with his wife Mary and son Harry arrived in Canada in 1898. The following children were born in Canada; Anne, Mary, Nick, Peter, Lena, Andrew, Sophie and

Pearl. They came from the county of Borschiw, Ukraine.

In 1921 Nick and Anne moved to Vegreville where he found employment in the Gordon Lumber Yard. It was here on this job that he experienced an incident which, in a sense, was an important turning point in his life. Unfamiliar with Canadian traditions, he took no special care to see that the shop and warehouse were properly secured on Halloween night. Next morning when the proprietor found that some pranksters had taken a wagon from the shop and scattered the parts all over town, he promptly fired Nick, for what he called "Nick's carelessness". Lacking adequate command of the English language, Nick was unable to exonerate himself. This was a traumatic experience for him. Not only did he lose his job with winter approaching and five mouths to feed, but the injustice of the whole episode hurt him deeply. He vowed that he would never again work for anyone, but come what may, he would be his own master. He decided that farming would give him this independence and two years later he bought a farm (N½ of N½ 34-50-15 W4). This is a unique farm because it is one mile long and one quarter mile wide, situated on the Vegreville-Holden highway. This farm had thirty five acres arable land and two barns both covered with sod. Before the family could move in, he had to build a house because the former owner took the house with him. Thirteen years later this house was replaced by a better one, and in 1938 he purchased another quarter of land. In 1948 he bought his first car and in 1955, at the age of seventy, he went into retirement in Vegreville. Here he remained until his death in December, 1973.

Nick Baydala was father to three children by his second marriage, two sons and one daughter, Marshall, Olga and Nestor. Nestor and his wife Mollie and their sons Terry and Timmy still live on the family farm.

In his business ventures, my father could not boast of much success. In Manitoba he bought a farm and, when it was almost paid for, he found that he had been swindled. In the years following the first World War, seeing that everyone was speculating in land, he invested in some property in Edmonton and lost. He invested again, this time in a co-operative company, and it went bankrupt.

Nick's first years in Canada were typical of the life and experiences of Ukrainian immigrants, that of hardships, lack of steady employment, and low pay. His first job in Canada was picking seneca roots which, because of their medicinal properties, had a ready sale in local stores in those days. Then he worked on the railway extra gang at \$1.50 for a ten hour day. He also cut wood at \$1.00 a cord, did some

clerking, barbering, and drove a dray. He was a qualified barber, but loved the outdoors and ended up farming.

An excerpt from his diary reads, "We have not accomplished much, but I am satisfied. Blind fortune has not favoured me. What I tried to do, such as selling land, horses or cattle, I always lost more than I gained. However, there is no other country under the sun where an average person could throw away as much money as we do here in Canada, and have so much freedom".

Bateman, Reverend Richard and Dorothy by Dorothy (Geeson) Bateman

Dick served with the United Churches, in the Holden-Ryley charge as a student from 1966 to 1969. He studied theology at St. Stephen's College, and came home on weekends, and through university breaks to continue his ministerial work. We lived in the United Church manse which used to be the Peder-son house.



Bateman family. Back Row: John, Dianne, Paul, Rev. Richard, David, Dorothy, Mark.

We had five children: Dianne graduated from Holden High School in 1968, and then worked at the Viking Hospital for a year. She now lives in Edmonton and works at The Society of Retired and Semi-retired as information counsellor and volunteer coordinator. She received her B.A. from the University of Calgary.

John lives in Courtney, B.C., and is involved in automotive body shop business.

Paul has his B.Ed. and at present is teaching at Ponoka, where he resides.

Mark is employed in the logging industry in B.C., and lives at Courtney.

David was a pre-schooler while we lived at Holden.

The boys all enjoyed sports, cadets and school activities. John and Paul enjoyed employment on local farms during holidays. Mark had a paper route and delivered Journals, and Dianne did a lot of baby-sitting. David liked being part of the community nursery school which some of us mothers organized to enrich the lives of our little people.

The Bateman family held Christmas Eve services at the United Church and all the children took part. We remember the many church, school and community activities, also the church choirs, and the Centennial Year celebrations which were held in 1967.

Bednarski, Peter and Magdalena

by Michael N. Zowtuk

My grandfather, Peter Bednarski, at the age of 32, came to Canada from Austria in 1913 just before W.W.I broke out. His first stop was in Calgary, Alberta where he managed to get work on a dairy farm. He worked there for awhile, then, on his second venture he was hired by a grain farmer at Rockyford. There was plenty of work for him being that the farm consisted of one township.



Peter and Magdalena Bednarski.

In 1921 my grandmother, Magdalena Bednarski, at the age of 30 came to Canada with their three daughters, Annie, Mary and Josie.

In 1922 Peter and Magdalena Bednarski purchased one quarter of land from Arne Grosland 5 miles northwest of Holden, where they made their home.

There were only 15 acres of land that were broken on this farm, but they managed, the hard way, to break more land as time went on. Grandmother, Magdalena, would go to the bush and manage to cut from 50-75 trees down at the root all in one day. Day after day this work continued as the trees were

cleared. Then grandfather, Peter, did the breaking with horses.

As time went on, Peter and Magdalena had more children, namely: Olga, Frank and Edward.

Annie, the eldest, was married to Nicholas Zowtuk in 1923. Nick came to Canada in 1913 from the village of Buratkiwka in the Ukraine.

Peter and Magdalena's second born, Mary married Andrew Tchir. They farmed northwest of Holden for a time and then moved to London, Ontario. Of this marriage, two children were born, namely: Helen and Susie. In 1972 Mary passed away. Andrew Tchir is living in London, Ontario at the age of 81 yrs.

Josie married Karl Paliwoda and also farmed northwest of Holden. They moved to London, Ontario. Their four sons were: Roy (deceased), William, John and Ed all living in London.

Edward married Mary Skorochid, purchased land southeast of Holden which they continue to farm. They also purchased one quarter section northwest of Holden. Four children graced this marriage.

Frank married Ann Ewashko and are now living in Vegreville. Frank is employed by Raydon Motors as a mechanic. Ann works at the Co-op in Vegreville. Their children are: David, Elaine, Judy, Larry, Annette and Donna.

Olga is married to Stan Chomik and is living in Viking. They have four children.

My grandparents, Peter and Magdalena, retired from farming in 1954 when they moved to Holden where they purchased a two room house. They enjoyed their retirement for a number of years. In 1960, grandfather, Peter, passed on and grandmother, Magdalena, passed away in 1970. They both passed away at the age of 79 years.

Bell, David and Ethel

Dave and Ethel Bell arrived in Holden in 1954, with their three small children. Their new home was in the former Bertha Sanderson house complete with promised plumbing. The shock of pumped water with a path up to the back yard was only one of the many adjustments that had to be made. The support and welcome of many new found friends made the adjustment a great deal easier, both in and out of town.

The use of outdoor plumbing always brought out many memories of excitement and apprehension. The day that Bill Beckstead, the United Church minister found the old chap across the street quite dead, seated on the throne caused a lot more excitement than many town elections. The initiation of Dave into teaching was dramatic indeed, when a call of an urgent nature went out for Sunday school teachers.



Ethel and Dave Bell.

Marvin Semotiuk, Chris Bell and several other angels of similar age and nature were the first pupils to hear the message from an ex-army officer cum car salesman. Perhaps the only good that came from this project was that the boys all recovered and went on to things of glory, but Dave never really recovered as he then turned to full time teaching and then adult training.

Ethel was instrumental in planning, developing and leading the girls in the Holden Majorettes, for a number of years. The Holden Sports Day has never been quite the same before or after this mighty display of Holden's finest maidens displaying their skill and charm, marching to the bugle band, swinging their batons while waltzing over the gravel and a variety of chips on the streets of this fair town.

The political life of Holden during this period was centred on the town council. The number of evenings that Dave and others spent considering the financing, and developing town by-laws that not everyone agreed upon, were not in vain. Holden now has running slough water, pumped sewage, paved

streets with appropriate by-laws that keep the citizens from threatening one another's reputation and fame over disputes of dogs, patronage and evil ways. This was not always the situation, as many were the growing pains of the members of the town council and their local supporters as well as critics.

Holden Sales Ltd. was the initial venture of the Bell's into business, but after Dave's long session in hospital with polio he reappeared on the scene as Bell Machinery Ltd., selling Massey Harris machinery and Ford cars. The day Johnny Ogonoski backed a tractor onto the floor of the old shop and then dropped into the cistern below was a real thriller.

Ethel also became involved in the business world as she successfully operated the Esso service station out on the highway while Chris was still a pre-schooler. These were busy days what with Andy Anderson advised by John Puk, keeping many of Holden's area cars, trucks and tractors serviceable to the standards of the day. The closest neighbour to the service station were a number of goats complete with a billy. The day the lady owner of the billy goat tethered him to a post with a long rope was a serious one, for when she stooped to tie another goat to a post, the billy scored an excellent body check on a prominent feature. What an embarrassed lady.

After eight years in Holden, Dave turned to teaching school, with well earned learning scars from both giving and taking on the youth of Tofield, Holden and Bruce. From Holden the Bells moved to Stettler, Edmonton, and then four years in Regina, before going on to the nation's capital, all in the world of training.

Today Dave is a training consultant working for the civil service in Ottawa. Ethel is retired. Chris is also in Ottawa working as a technician with Bell Telephone. Ruth is in Regina running her own business selling recreational equipment, married with three children all in school, and Linda works in the oil patch in Airdrie, Alberta.

Bell, Eugene

Eugene Bell, a railroad man, met his wife Katherine (Klawitter) in Ryley and they were married in 1914. They lived in Edmonton and a year later their son Frank was born (in his grandmother's house in Ryley). Eugene continued working with the railway at Clover Bar, and that's where their daughter Mary was born; in the back part of the station house where they lived.

They later bought a farm two miles north of Holden, now owned by Fred Faryna. The family lived there for eighteen years where seven more children were born. Then came the crop failure;



Linda, Dave, Ruth and Chris Bell.



Bell family.

frost, hail, drought and 25¢ a bushel grain. Eugene gave up and since Katherine wanted to live in a warmer climate, they put a small down payment on a farm near Okanagan Falls, B.C. They shipped their belongings in a box car and the family travelled in a 1928 Chev. truck.

Eugene and Katherine lived at Okanagan Falls until their passing, Eugene in 1959 at the age of 84, and Katherine in 1973 at the age of 74.

Their eldest son, Frank, worked for the highway department at Oliver, B.C. until his retirement. He has four children and lives in Penticton.

Mary Elliott was widowed in 1979 and married Wilbert Ferris in 1981 and they live at Okanagan Falls. She was employed as a camp cook for road construction in various parts of B.C. She is now retired.



The Bells and Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Christensen.

Lilly Edmonds has two daughters and is a very talented artist and gardener. Her needle point and other crafts are beautiful.

Rosy Hallam has four children. She makes burl carvings and is a rock hound, and enjoys making jewellery.

Emily Fetterer was widowed in 1976 and now lives in Penticton. She worked in the apple packing house in Summerland until she retired. She has two children.

Johnny has three children. His wife passed away in 1979. He served overseas during the war and was wounded. He later spent most of his life in construction. He is now retired, and lives in Okanagan Falls.

Susan Rupert was born on a stormy December 28, while snow sifted through the cracks of the old house. Eugene was not at home, so Mary, then eleven years old, helped her mother during the birth. Susan cooked at construction camps during the first few years of her marriage. Then she and her husband, a construction worker, moved to New York state, where they had five children.

Louis lives at Lardeau, B.C. and works for the highways department. He has one son. Louis hunts, fishes and does a lot of deep sea diving.

Annie Kriz, also cooked in construction camps. She and her husband now live in Creston, B.C. where they have a large orchard. They have twin sons and a daughter.

Joyce was born in Okanagan Falls. She married a logger and has five children. They now live at Lardeau, B.C. where her husband works for the highway department.

Bengtson, John Emil

by Dr. Bengtson

As a youth growing up in rural Nebraska in the 1920's, the winter nights were often long. In addition to playing cards, we would sometimes succeed in getting our father to talk about his early life, particularly the years that he spent away from Nebraska in Canada. The stories that he would relate were completely foreign to the routine life of our rural farm home. My father, John Emil Bengtson was born in 1884 in rural Nebraska near Wahoo, Saunders County. When my father was about five years old, the family moved to Newman Grove, Nebraska. We never did hear much about his early life, but at the age of fourteen he and another neighbor youth left home to go to the Pacific Northwest. After working a few years in the logging camps of Washington State, British Columbia and a trip to Alaska, he and a friend immigrated to Canada to homestead land. It is remarkable that he was only nineteen years old at the time of filing his homestead in 1903. The location was SW 24-47-17. It is of interest to note that several of the homesteaders in the areas in which he settled

1279142

THE NATURALIZATION ACT

REV. STAS. CAN. CHAPTER 113, AND AMENDMENTS THEREOF

Certificate of Naturalization.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA:

In the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories before The
Honorable.....David Lynn Smith.....one of the Judges of the
said Court, sitting in Chambers in the Judicial District of Northern Alberta.

Whereas.....John Emmel Bengston.....formerly of
.....U. S. A......now of.....Earling
(Name of Country)

in the Province of Alberta in the Dominion of Canada
(Occupation)

.....Farmer, 24, 47, 17, W 4......has complied with the
several requirements of "The Naturalization Act," and has duly resided in Canada
for the period of three years;

And whereas the certificate granted to the said.....John Emmel Bengston.....
.....under the tenth section of the said Act has been
duly presented to the said Judge sitting in Chambers in the said Judicial District;
and whereas a copy of such certificate has been duly posted in a conspicuous place
in the Court House in which the said Judge holds his Chambers, and the said Judge
has directed the issue of a certificate of naturalization of the said.....

.....John Emmel Bengston.....
This is therefore to certify to all whom it may concern, that, under and by virtue
of the said Act.....John Emmel Bengston.....has
become naturalized as a British subject, and is within Canada, entitled to all political
and other rights, powers and privileges, and is subject to all obligations to which
a natural-born British subject is entitled or subject within Canada, with this qualification
that he shall not, when within the limits of the Foreign State of which he
was a subject (or citizen) previous to the date hereof, be deemed to be a British
subject unless he has ceased to be subject (or citizen) of that State, in pursuance
of the law thereof, or in pursuance of a treaty or convention to that effect.

Given under the seal of the Supreme Court of the North-west
Territories, Judicial District of Northern Alberta, this.....4th.....
day of.....September.....one thousand nine hundred and.....1911.....

E. L. Ferris
Acting Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court.

This is a true copy of the Certificate granted to the above named person.

.....
Deputy Clerk of the Court.

were from the town of Newman Grove, Nebraska. It is known that he worked for the railraod; did trapping and other odd jobs to eke out a living while attempting to develop the homestead.

My father returned to Nebraska when grandfather died in 1912 and the business of tending to his affairs was left in my father's hands. He married a Nebraska girl and began farming in Platte County, Nebraska. A restless spirit that originally drove him to the northwest again surfaced and he moved to Minnesota with his wife, three children and one on the way. He continued to own his farm near Holden, but as he stated later, he didn't get enough return from the rent to pay the taxes. A land agent in Minnesota convinced him that he should trade his farm for one in Montana. This was accomplished and I think that the selling price of the Alberta quarter was less than \$2,000.00 American dollars. My father then moved to Montana, but conditions were so desolate and provisions and accommodations for my mother and four children were so bleak, that my mother insisted on returning to Nebraska. Back in Nebraska the family survived the great drought and depression and added to the farm holdings.

John E. fathered seven children who live today. One son and one daughter still farm. Two daughters taught school. One daughter is a chemist for the State Health Department. One daughter works in a hospital and one son is a physician.

The Canadian quarter of land was sold to Gust Johnson who farmed the land for many years. Harry Naslund now farms the land, and when visiting with him he stated that he often wondered why it was called the "Bengtson Quarter".

A few brief items that I can recall my father relating about his life in Alberta were; In one instance he described Ukrainian women who had homesteaded some distance from his property walking over land barefooted to town to buy provisions. They not only carried provisions, but carried a child with them too. The distance must have been fairly great as they stayed overnight in his cabin. He described several trapping expeditions that he undertook to gain money for living or helping to pay for farming expenses. Apparently on one of these, he became lost and exhausted and must have fainted. When he awakened, he was in an Indian camp being cared for by the Indians. He was fed their diet for a few days until he was able and well enough to return to his home. He was curious about the stew meat served to him and felt less than well when informed that it was muskrat. He described that a favorite food item was roast Teal duck. He prepared it the way the Indians taught him — coating the whole duck, feathers and all in clay mud, then tossing it into the fire. When the

mud had hardened, the duck was done and all the feathers would come off with the hardened clay. One of the staples to eat was rice, I suppose because it kept well. One time, after being gone some days, he returned home famished. In a hurry to eat, he gorged on not fully cooked rice. Further swelling of the rice in his stomach nearly "done him in". During one of the cold winters, he froze his feet and had a prolonged stay, I think, in an Edmonton hospital. I think he always remained bitter and chagrined that he was talked into selling his homestead. He cherished the memories of his Alberta home and spoke of his life with nostalgia.

Beveridge, Harvey and Winifred

Harvey Stephen Beveridge and Winifred Elizabeth Beveridge, with their children Diana and Stephen, arrived in Holden in January, 1949 from Medicine Hat, Alberta. Before that they lived in Didsbury. While in Holden they lived in the bank manager's residence, third from the corner on 50th Avenue, formerly occupied by the Horns and the Flemings. Mr. Beveridge was the manager of the Holden Branch of The Royal Bank of Canada. Mrs. Beveridge began teaching in the Holden Elementary School in 1953 and continued to do so until June, 1968. Mr. Beveridge retired in 1967. They moved to Vancouver in 1968.

When the family arrived in Holden, Diana was in grade six. Her teacher was Alex Gordey. Subsequent teachers were Andrew Yuhem, Bill Ogrodnick, Mrs. Parker-Norton, Lars Olson, Geoff Mealing and Mr. Brushett. Diana was a Brownie and later a Girl Guide in Mrs. Gordey's troop, later led by Mrs. Beveridge; also in C.G.I.T. led by Muriel Barlow, and U.C. Young Peoples led by Rev. Allan Duncan. She left Holden in 1955 to attend University of Alberta; after University she became a social service worker in Edmonton. Diana, now Mrs. Vandersypen, is a housewife living in Qualicum Beach, B.C.

Stephen started school in September, 1949. Mrs. Gordey was the grade one teacher. Subsequent teachers were Miss Barlow, Miss Lundgren, Mrs. Hviid, Miss Schwartzberger, Mrs. Torrie, Mrs. D. Ogrodnick. He left Holden in 1961 to attend the University of Alberta and is now Associate Professor, Faculty of Business Administration and Finance of the U of A.

Bianowski, Tom

Tom Bianowski was born in the Ukraine in 1885 and immigrated to Canada in 1903. He filed on the SW 12-49-17-W4 for his homestead which became part of the Talbot District.

In 1907 he married Malania Horpaniuk who was

born in the Ukraine in 1879, and came to Canada to stay with friends.

Their first home was a log house which Tom built, and he built all his own farm buildings out of hand hewn logs. He constructed an outdoor oven for his wife which was used for the family baking.

Times were very difficult for the couple, and most of the land was cleared by hand. They had a horse, a cow, a few chickens and Mrs. Bianowski always had a large garden. They took their own wheat to the Mundare Mill to be ground into flour. They had three children.

Steve was born in 1908. He attended Shaw School, and when Talbot School opened in 1917, he enrolled there. He farmed with his parents until they retired and moved to Holden, then he remained on the farm and continued to farm on his own. He retired in 1974 and lives in Ryley, Alberta.

Twin daughters, Mary and Tillie were born in October, 1911, and they both attended Talbot School.

In 1930 Mary married John Mahowich. They farmed the SE 14-49-17-W4 which they rented from Charlie Stuart. They had one daughter, Olga.

Olga was born in 1932 and received her education at the Poe and Talbot Schools. She married John Stogryn and they have one son, Dale. They reside in Vancouver, B.C.

Mary passed away in 1944.

Tillie married Harry Komarnisky. (Refer to Harry Komarnisky History).

Mr. Bianowski passed away in 1954, and his wife in 1964.

Bilyk, Harry and Magdalena **by John Bilyk**

In April, 1902, Harry Bilyk, born in 1876, married Magdalena Cebryk, who was born in 1883. Their economic situation at Husatan, Austria (Western Ukraine) bordered on poverty because of a shortage of land and lack of employment opportunities. Consequently, the Bilyks and the Cebryks decided to immigrate to Canada where, according to reports, there was plenty of land, wood and water. A weaver by trade, Harry and his wife came to Canada in 1902.

From Halifax they travelled by train to Strathcona (South Edmonton). The Edmonton homestead agents pointed out available homestead land. Harry and Magdalena were driven by wagon and oxen to the district east of Beaverhill Lake. What greeted them there were people, environment and customs somewhat alien to theirs. In a short time, they laid claim to SE 34-50-16, eight miles north of Holden. The homestead was selected by Magdalena because it had a big lake and thus she could enjoy her favorite pastime of swimming. At that moment, little did she

realize that frontier life was so demanding that she would have little time for enjoying the sport. Of course, better farming land was available in the vicinity, but in this case, water was the deciding factor. Pioneer life was lonely, but relatives and newly acquired friends in the district provided comradeship, encouragement and hope.

Magdalena and Harry stayed with friends for a while until their house was built. The material for the house, and shortly the barn, was obtained from the land. The buildings were built of logs, plastered with clay, and thatched with sheaves made from slough hay.



61st Wedding Anniversary of Harry and Magdeline Bilyk, 1962. Standing (L. to R.) sons — John, Nick, Peter, Mike, Lloyd, Steve. Sitting (L. to R.) daughters — Doris (Howrish), Mary (Homenick), Parents Harry and Magdeline, daughters Annie (Cheremshynski), Nancy (Faryna). Photo taken at John Bilyk's place, 1962.

Because money was scarce, Harry had to find a job. The education that Harry had under the local priest in the Ukraine helped him in learning the English language quite readily. He worked for a big farmer southeast of Vegreville where he bought a cow. Magdalena had to be very industrious and resourceful to combat the rigors of pioneer life. (In many cases, the pioneer women were the unsung heroes of those early days.)

Harry's next job was working on the railroad. While he was thus employed at Cochrane, west of Calgary, he bought a pair of horses. He went home on foot, leading the horses a distance of 250 miles. He could have ridden one of the horses, but evidently did not entertain the idea at the time.

On the way from Cochrane one of his horses broke away. A farmer living close by rode out and captured the stray animal. Harry was very thankful to have his horse back; furthermore, the farmer would not take any money for his trouble. Such was the characteristic of pioneer life.



Family Reunion — 61st Anniversary of Harry and Magdaline Bilyk.

As years passed, Harry bought more land. In 1920 he purchased a steam engine and a threshing machine. Smaller machinery items were bought before this in order to develop the farm, but the threshing outfit eclipsed all previous equipment.

In 1928 Harry and Magdalena bought a new Essex Super Six automobile. Now they could go in comfort and style to town and church and visit relatives and friends.

Magdalena was a member of the Ladies' League for 35 years and Harry served on the Borschiw Church committee for 40 years.

Harry and Magdalena were blessed with ten children. The parents made sure that the children were brought up in the Catholic faith and were good Canadian citizens. The whole family worked together to develop the ever-expanding farm holdings.

The Bilyk boys had their own orchestra and had many bookings in this part of the province. Even today, they occasionally warm the hearts (and feet) of many social groups.

In 1952, Magdalena and Harry retired from farming and moved to Holden. (When they got older, they felt it advisable to get help and attention from their children.) Later they lived with son, John, and his family until the Good Lord called them to their eternal rest and glory, Harry in 1965 and Magdalena in 1968.



Bilyk's Orchestra — Steve, Nick and Mike and 1928 Essex.

The Bilyk sons and daughters have left their indelible mark in the community.

Peter married Jean Komarnisky. They farm north of Holden. In the 1920's, Peter was a licensed steam and boiler engineer. They have a daughter, Ellen.

Mike married Dora Ogradnick. (Refer to Mike Bilyk's history).

Annie married John Cheremshynsky, a farmer. After John passed away, Annie moved to Vegreville. The couple had two children — Peter and Minnie.

Nick married Clara Pooke. (Refer to Nick Bilyk history).

Nancy married Peter D. Faryna and they farmed near Holden. Presently they are retired in Vegreville. Their four daughters are Mary, Susan, Alice and Patsy.

Steve and his wife Mary (nee Yakimetz) farmed north of Holden. Steve was a carpenter and a building contractor. Mary passed away. Their two children are Bill and Patsy.

Mary married Joe Homenick and most of their life was spent in Vegreville where Joe was involved in different business ventures: restaurant, lumber and hardware. The couple was blessed with two daughters — Olga and Eileen.

Doris and her husband Nick Howrish farmed for a long time. Nick has passed away, and presently Doris lives in Vegreville. Their three sons are Ervin, Ernest and Ronald.

John married Mary Mielimaka. (Refer to John Bilyk's history).

Lloyd married Anne Mielimaka and the couple has lived in Vegreville most of the time. Lloyd is a car salesman and Anne works at the Post Office. Their two sons are Dave and Ernie.

The parents, Harry and Magdalena Bilyk, considered themselves blessed with good Canadian fortune — the welcome freedoms, their happy and prosperous life, their many wonderful friends and their admirable family.

Bilyk, John and Mary by Evelyn Kropielnicki

John, son of Harry and Magdaline Bilyk was born in 1922. In 1942 he married Mary, daughter of Anthony and Josie Mielimaka who was born in 1923. John had attended Myroslaw School, while Mary



John Bilyk family. Back Row: Allan Bilyk, Richard Kropielnicki, Darryl Kropielnicki, Ron, Joe and Brenda Bilyk. Middle Row: Diane and Mary Bilyk, Evelyn Kropielnicki, John, Bradley and Eileen Bilyk. Front Row: Cameron, Robert, Darren and Brian Bilyk.

took her education at Holden. The couple started farming on the family farm SE 34-50-16-W4. In 1936 their first tractor cost \$1,600; in 1982 their tractor (of course much bigger and more powerful) cost approximately \$100,000.

Through the years the family has carried on mixed farming — grain — cattle — hogs — and chickens. Today they farm 2,580 acres, being assisted by son Ron. The Bilyk farmyard has an array of fine buildings and the most modern farm machinery. John and Mary have twice changed their place of residence, and presently reside on E½ 29-50-15-W4.

At the age of eight, John started taking violin and dancing lessons. Within a short time he learned to play any instrument of the orchestra. When he was fifteen he played in his brothers' orchestra. When that orchestra folded up he played with other orchestras. The pay was poor and the hours were long. In 1947 John formed his own band called Johnny's Serenaders. Through the years they have provided dance music at many functions in the area.

In 1980 John and Mary had a very serious car accident. They are still recovering but are thankful to God to be alive.

John and Mary sing in the church choir and have contributed to three recordings: Chipman-Borschiw, Trident and Vegreville. They have been members of Borschiw Church since 1942, and John has been on the Parish Council since 1950. They are now parishioners of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vegreville.



John Bilyk Orchestra played at Devil's Lake Corral, August 22, 1981. Horst Wilfert, John Bilyk, Ron Bilyk, Joe Bilyk, Joe Mielimaka.

In 1982 John and Mary celebrated their 40th Anniversary. They were blessed with three sons and one daughter. The parents made sure that all their children completed high school, became good Catholics and worthy Canadian citizens.

Son Joe married Eileen Kropielnicki and they farm north of Holden. Their children are Brenda, Bradley and Brian.

Daughter Evelyn married Richard Kropielnicki. Evelyn is employed by the Bank of Montreal in Vegreville, while Richard farms and carries on a machinery business. They have one son Darryl.

Son Allan married Dianne Osadchuk and the couple are blessed with three sons: Darren, Robert and Cameron. Allan works for AGT and Dianne is employed at Vegreville General Hospital.

Son Ronald is single, works at Vegreville Post Office, and helps with the farming.

Looking back, John and Mary feel they have had a very rewarding life and are looking forward to many more happy years with their children, relatives and friends.

Bilyk, Mike and Dora

Mike Bilyk, second son of Harry and Magdalina was born in 1904. He lived on the homestead with his parents, took his schooling at Myroslaw and farmed at home until he married Dora Ogrodnick, daughter of Dmitri and Michaelina in 1936.



Family of Mike and Dora Bilyk.

At that time he and Dora moved to their own farm nearby, where they raised a family of two girls, Eileen and Marcia.

Aside from farming, Mike was a talented violinist. He had his own band that consisted of his brothers and a neighbour, Alex Shyba. This group was in demand for weddings and community dances in the Borschiw area. When Mike started farming on his own and the depression hit, he was unable to continue with the band but always played for his own enjoyment at home. His Stradivarius has now become a family heirloom.



Marcia Bilyk Kubin.

In the thirties Mike developed another talent, that of barbering. It was non paying and self taught. Mike will always be remembered by relatives and neighbours for his kind generosity.

During his entire lifetime, Mike was devoted to his God, his church and his wife Dora and their daughters who were his ardent co-workers. Every Sunday of the year, for twenty six years, Mike faithfully served the priest at the altar, retiring only three months before his passing in April 1980.

Dora has served on church and parish committees in a variety of capacities for more than forty years. Since Mike's passing she has continued to live in their farm home, from where she enjoys her church work and visits from her children and grandchildren.

Their children:

Eileen, born in 1937, was educated at Holden School, married Danny Gnesko in 1969 and they have two children, Michael and Kathy. Eileen has worked as head waitress in the banquet department of a hotel in Edmonton.



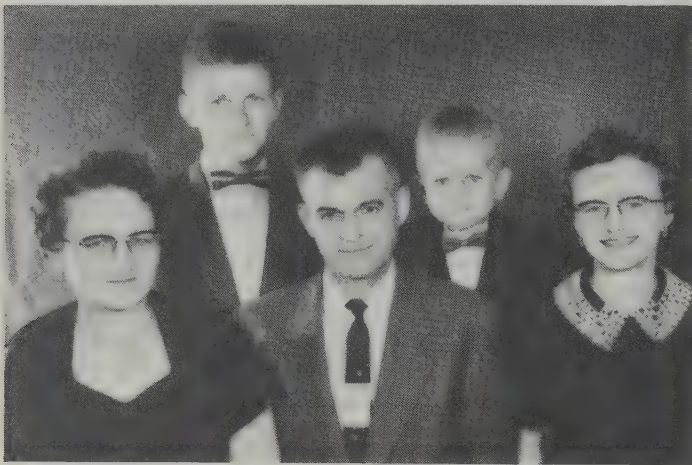
Michelle and Joey Kubin.

Marcia, born in 1945, received her education at Holden and spent one year of high school at a Catholic College for girls in Edmonton. She then took a hairdressing course and was employed at Lloydmin-

ster and Vegreville prior to her marriage to John Kubin in 1964. The Kubins raised a family of two, Joey and Michelle, before Marcia was called to her untimely passing after four years of battling with multiple sclerosis. Marcia will always be remembered for her bright smile and her unselfish devotion to her parents, her family and her church.

Bilyk, Nicholas

Nick Bilyk was born at Haight in 1907. He attended Myroslaw School and later farmed with his father. Clara Pooke was born at Haight in 1917 and she also attended Myroslaw. Nick and Clara were married in 1935 and farmed in the Haight area for nine years.



Clara, Lawrence, Nick, Dale and Eugenia Bilyk.

In 1944 they moved to Holden and purchased the coffee shop from Earl Dodds. In 1946 they sold their farm to John Bilyk and started construction on a new cafe with space for two bowling lanes and billiard tables.

Nick and Clara had three children:

Eugenie was born in 1937 and obtained her education at Holden and Vermilion, Alberta. In 1956 she married Lloyd Kachman of Holden. They have four daughters, Janice, Lonee, Jayne and Lenell. Lloyd is manager of the Royal Bank at Morinville where the family resides.

Lawrence was born in 1941. He obtained his education at Holden and in 1966 he married Judy Auch. They have two children, Delvin and Lenore. Lawrence is employed by Ruscoe Industries and the family lives in Edmonton.

Dale was born in 1951. He received his education at Holden and in 1970 he and Patty Grube were married. They have two children, Sherri and Jamie. Dale is sales representative for Clairol and the family resides on an acreage at Ardrossan, Alberta.

In 1980 Nick and Clara sold their business to Ivan Flewelling and retired. Nick is known as "Holden's



Holden Coffee Shop.

Mr. Fixit", and is kept busy repairing gadgets for his family and friends. Clara is an avid gardener in the summer months.

Bilyk, Zane and Helen

Zane, son of the late Paul and Katie Bilyk of Mundare, came to Holden in 1946. He and his brother Gene formed a partnership and went into the grocery business. They rented the store on the corner (now Holden Trading) for one month. They then bought a store building in the middle of the block, where they operated until 1952. Zane then continued on his own until 1973.



Zane Bilyk family: Zane, Helen, Dianne, Richard, Larry.

In 1948 he married Helen Harmider (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Harmider) of Daysland. They were blessed with four children, Dianne, Larry, Richard and Shelley. Dianne was married in 1975 to Jerry Stubinsky of Vegreville. They have a son Jason. Larry is working as a low bed driver on pipe line construction. Richard is with Northwestern Utilities at Tofield. Shelley graduated from high school in 1982.



Zane and Helen Bilyk, 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Helen and Zane were celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on May 26, 1973 at the Holden Hall, when Zane passed away suddenly. He had been an active member of the Holden Chamber of Com-



Richard, Jerry, Dianne, Helen, Shelley, Larry and Grandma Harmider.

merce, Holden Elks, Greek Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus. Zane and three others from Holden, Steve Komarnisky, John Semotiuk and Archie Foran and the late Mayor Hawreliuk of Edmonton went on the Yellowhead Overland Route Caravan in 1959.

Helen is a member of the Royal Purple. She has been Honored Royal Lady for three consecutive years. She is also a member of the Greek Catholic Church. In 1982 she became the first matron of the new Holden Lodge. She makes her home in Holden.

Bishop, Tom

as written by his niece, Elsie (Bishop) George

Thomas Philonzo Bishop was born in 1875 near Dudswell Centre and Lime Ridge in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, the son of Scorates (Crate) Bishop. When Tom was very young, his mother died, leaving a large family. The oldest girl, Alma, who,



Tom Bishop.

with the help of the oldest son, Shirley Bishop, took charge of the family. After a few years, Shirley married Sarah Goodenough. Shortly thereafter Alma married, and she and her husband made their home not far away, taking with them Marion Bishop, the youngest of Tom's sisters. Tom and his next younger sister, Cynthia, stayed with the other members of the family, who all moved a little later to a farm that Shirley had bought out on the road to South Ham.

It was while here that Tom met the Thompson brothers, Orville and Luther, and they began talking about going out to B.C. to work in the mines. It was not long before they were on their way west, in 1902.



Gladys (Ames) de Champlain.

About this time, Marion met and married Ernest Ames, who was in charge of a sawmill crew at South Ham. They later became the parents of a little girl, Gladys, and moved to Edmonton where Ernest worked with the railway for a number of years before taking a farm neighboring Tom Bishop near Holden.

After working in the B.C. mines for some years, Tom Bishop and the Thompson boys went to Alberta and took up farming land near Holden. Each year thereafter until 1913, Tom paid short visits to his farm and spent the rest of the time in B.C.

In 1912, after the death of Tom's brother, Shirley Bishop, Shirley's son, Wells Arnold Bishop, visited his Uncle Tom on the farm near Holden before going to work on the construction of a railway northwest of Edmonton. In 1913, Wells' sister, Tom's niece, Elsie May Bishop, who had been teaching school in Quebec, decided to come west to teach, not knowing that in Alberta, one had to take Grade Eleven before being allowed to teach. She stayed at the Ernest Ames home in Edmonton while applying for and receiving a teaching appointment, which enabled her to obtain a temporary teaching permit.

It was here that Elsie met her Uncle Tom Bishop for the first time since he had left the east when she was a little girl. Tom was passing through Edmonton **en route** from B.C. to his farm near Holden. Almost his first words to her were, "Well, I guess I can't hold

you up by the heels **now** to hear you squeal." "You'd better not try it!" she answered.

He invited her to visit him at his log cabin on the farm. This she did that August, taking with her, her cousin Gladys, who was to start school in Edmonton that fall. Tom met them at the railway station with a wagon and team of work horses, and they began the long trip to his farm home. Not expecting very cool western weather at this time of year, Elsie and Gladys hadn't dressed warmly enough, and thought the eight mile trip to the farm would never end. After a two or three day stay, Tom drove them back to Holden to take the morning train to Edmonton. They got to the Holden station just in time to see the train pulling out. The girls had to stay in Holden all day waiting for the evening train. In spite of the difficulties of Elsie's first visit to Holden, she decided that the farm would be a quiet place to do her studying for her grade eleven exams.

But soon after her visit to Holden, Elsie learned that her application to teach the school near Dusseldorf, now Freedom, northwest of Edmonton had been accepted, and she taught there from September to the middle of February, whereupon she returned to Edmonton and later got a school near Viking.

It was at this school that Elsie learned her mother was planning to remarry in Quebec, and was not going to come west as planned to join her children in living on the Tom Bishop farm. Upon hearing this, Wells enlisted in the Forty-ninth Battalion in Edmonton. When school closed in the summer of 1914, Elsie went to Holden to keep house for her Uncle Tom and study for her grade eleven examinations. She was there for several years, studying and going to school in Holden. The people of Holden were a friendly lot, and Elsie enjoyed going to the dances there.

After the years in Holden, Elsie went to Saskatoon to finish her schooling and teacher training, after which she went to teach among the Ukrainian "New Canadians", who had settled near Theodore and Stornoway, Saskatchewan. After teaching in different parts of Saskatchewan for nearly fourteen years, Elsie married Gordon George, a farmer near Delisle, who rented a farm near Lashburn, Saskatchewan, where they lived for a year or two.

In the meantime, Tom Bishop's marriage to May Hyslop, a widow with a number of half grown children, had failed, and he was again left alone. Since at this time he was unwell, he asked that Elsie and her husband move up to live with him. After a year and a half, Elsie and Gordon moved back to Lashburn and rented a different farm. Soon afterwards their son, Ronald, was born.

Tom went on living on his farm, which he eventually sold to Albert Hultholm, husband of Tom's

wife's niece. Albert allowed Tom the use of the log house as long as he needed it. In later years, as he was not well, Elsie made trips to Holden in attempts to get him to move to Lashburn, but Tom would not consider leaving his old home. Nor did he ever return to the Province of Quebec, as he thought there would have been so many changes that he would not enjoy being there. Finally in the winter of 1959, he became so weak that, when he fell in the snow in his dooryard, he was unable to raise himself up, and lay there until found by some men passing by the house. He was taken to the hospital, where he died a few days later, and was interred in the Holden Cemetery.

Tom had a way of speaking his mind, even if his view was not altogether pleasant to the listener. But people seemed to forgive him for that, perhaps because of his fairness, the honesty of his dealings, and his prompt payment of bills.

Elsie and Gordon lived at Lashburn and Lloydminster until Gordon's death in 1974. Elsie, now eighty-eight years old, resides with her son, Ronald, (a high school teacher) at Ingersoll, Ontario.

Bjornstad (Burnstad), Per and Christiana by Grace (Hansen) Erikson

My grandparents, Per and Christiana Bjornstad, were born in Norway not far from Oslo. Grandpa was born in 1845 and Grandma in 1851. They were mar-



Martin and Helga Burnstad, Oscar and Elsie.

ried in 1870. To them were born thirteen children of whom nine survived to live long lives. There were four girls, Anna, Mary, Hedvig and Ragnhild and five boys, Christ, Martin, Carl, Sigurd and Oscar. They had a beautiful home near Drammen. Grandpa was a contractor for roads and railways. Grandmother ran the farm with help.

By 1902 all the children had gone to the United States except Ragnhild, Hedvig and Anna. In 1903, Ragnhild, Hedvig and their parents followed. Matthias Hansen came to the U.S. with them. They eventually took homesteads in South Dakota on the bald prairie where there were heaps of rattlesnakes and prairie dogs. My grandmother hated the snakes as everyone did. What a contrast to beautiful Norway! Many a tear was shed.

Finally they settled in Holden where they had relatives. Evan Olson built their comfortable home on the twenty acres just west of the Holden school. Their home contained many interesting things. To me it was the most beautiful place. Here they had cows and chickens. They lived a quiet and peaceful life. The coffee pot was always on the stove. Many Norwegian friends and relatives would drop in for a visit. Mrs. Black and Grandma could have the greatest visit, even though neither one spoke the other's language, nor English.

In 1931 we celebrated their diamond wedding. All their children were there but Anna who was in Norway. It was a beautiful party attended by many relatives and friends.



Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 1930 of Mr. and Mrs. Per Bjornstad (seated). Standing: Martin, Ragnhild, Carl, Sigurd, Chris, Oscar, Hedvig and Mary.

They both passed away the next year, 1932.

When I was in grade nine, there was to be a masquerade at the skating rink so my cousin, Jean Burnstad, and I decided to dress up in Grandpa and Grandma Bjornstad's old fashioned clothes. We went down to Uncle Martin Burnstad's with our costumes in a suitcase. We had to smuggle them out of the house. Aunt Helga helped us dress up and loaned us

\$1.00 for admission. Jean was the old lady. No one knew her as she was a visitor. I was the old man with one of those big nose and glasses jobs. Neither one of us knew much about skating so were down on the ice half the time. We won first prize — a dollar each, so we were a dollar to the good. When we got back to Grandpa's the door was locked, so we had to climb up the verandah. Aunt Mary, Jean's mother, and Uncle Oscar Burnstad, had a good laugh as did Grandpa. Grandma did not appreciate our escapade.

Blake, John J. Family

John and Kay Blake with their daughter Maxine, moved to Holden from Edmonton in 1940, to operate their hotel. Prior to that John operated his own general store and Kay worked for the provincial government. Having settled in town, John soon became involved in local government. He was elected to the town council and became mayor. This office he held for four years, and was re-elected in 1957. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, was an officer in the B.P.O.E. and was manager of the local hockey team.

Their first son James was born in 1943 and the family lived in a suite in the hotel. Daniel was born in 1947. All three children attended school in Holden and took piano lessons from Mrs. Thieme, as well as being busy with guides, cubs, scouts and sea cadets.

In 1959, the Holden Hotel was sold and the family moved to Vancouver where John and his brother Peter bought the Patricia Hotel which they operated until 1971.

Upon graduating from high school Maxine trained for her R.N. at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. She later married Lloyd Larson and they lived at Sexsmith, Alberta and engaged in the gro-



John and Kay Blake and sons, James and Daniel.

ery business. They raised three children David, Joan and Karen. They later moved to Victoria, B.C. Lloyd and his brother were involved in a number of business ventures in Victoria and Red Deer. They now spend their winters in Palm Springs where they own two large office buildings and thirty-four condominiums in Indio. They have a grandson, Mathew.

James graduated from U.B.C. in 1965 with a degree in Fine Arts and Theatre. He travelled through Europe and the Middle East for a year studying and sketching. He then studied three years at Vancouver School of Art. After a year of teacher training at U.B.C. he taught art at a secondary school. In 1976 he married Gail, daughter of Justice and Mrs. Wm. Haddad of Edmonton. They have a son Theodore born in 1978. James ran a Therapeutic Art Centre for emotionally disturbed adolescents in the Dept. of Mental Health for seven years. He is also a registered Art Therapist. He is at present taking a break, painting scenery at Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. His wife, Gail has a degree in Physical Education as well as a teacher's certificate. She is currently working part time as a Child Care Councillor for adolescents, and is a professional Belly Dancer, teaching and performing throughout B.C. and other parts of Canada.



Maxine Blake, graduation day with parents.

Daniel studied Liberal Arts for two years then took a course at B.C. Institute of Technology in landscaping and is employed by the school board as a landscaper. He is interested in music and plays the piano and flute. He also played trumpet in Beef Eaters Band in his school days. He is single.

Blake, Peter P. Family

Peter P. Blake joined his brother John in the Holden Hotel operation in 1940. In 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and received his basic training at H.M.C.S. Discovery at Vancouver and Esquimalt. Aboard a corvette he served in the Aleutian Island theatre for seven months. He joined the "Prince David", an auxiliary cruiser with a crew of four hundred and fifty men plus facilities for 1000 military personnel. She carried six landing craft to be used for ferrying and landing these troops.

The "Prince David" travelled in escorted convoy via the Panama Canal and New York to Greenock, Scotland. Prince David joined vast numbers of ships and went in on the successful landing at Normandy. "David" then went on to the Mediterranean theatre.

In line of duties of operations, these ports and countries were called at: Gibraltar, Corsica, Sardinia, Malta, Italy, Sicily, Greece, Crete, Cyprus, Egypt, Lybia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Venezuela. He was discharged from the navy in 1945, returned to civilian life in Holden.



Peter and Betty Blake with daughters, Penny and Valerie.

As secretary-treasurer of the local hockey team, his main role was to raise money for the club, chiefly by running weekly pools. He served on the volunteer fire-fighters team, belonged to the Elks Lodge, and was a cub master for several years.

After the war, all returned men became members of the Holden Branch of the Canadian Legion. Peter, an active member was branch secretary for eight years. He then was elected president for a term in 1958.

Holden veterans had a dream — to one day own a clubhouse, a place of their own where all returned

men could meet as comrades. The Legion is the only organization where members have something in common: They joined up, they served, (many died for the same cause). Those who returned find it most satisfying and meaningful to reminisce with their comrades — in a Legion clubhouse. The first World War veterans set up a "building fund". Veterans of the Second World War took up the challenge to enhance the building fund and acquire that clubhouse. By 1958 the building fund had been enriched sufficiently to purchase a retired rural schoolhouse which was moved into town and set up on a lot donated by the town just east of the curling rink. This was a dream come true.

Peter Blake married Betty Chamulke in 1950. They lived in a suite in the new rebuilt hotel. Betty was active in the Women's Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion and in the Catholic Ladies' Aid. It was during her term in office as president in 1959 that the new St. Gregory Roman Catholic Church was completed and consecrated.

In 1959 the Blake brothers, moved to Vancouver where they still live.

Peter and Betty raised two daughters, Penny and Valerie. Penny started school in Holden. She graduated from a separate high school in Vancouver. After three years at Langara College she attended B.C. Institute of Technology, graduating in nuclear medicine. She is married to Craig Robertson and they live in Yarrow, B.C. Craig is employed with B.C. Hydro. They have one son, Thomas (T.C.).

Valerie graduated with honors from high school and is in banking. She has been branch administrator at Prince Rupert and is now an inspector with the Royal Bank for B.C.

Boettcher, Reinhold

by Irma (Boettcher) Burkholtz and Arthur Boettcher

Reinhold Boettcher was born March 7, 1898, in Busarabia, Russia, to John and Anna Marie Boettcher. When he was eleven years, the whole family immigrated to Canada. He became separated from the rest of his family as they were going through immigration, and, due to an infection, he was detained. The rest of the family continued on to Castor, Alberta. He then travelled the rest of the way to his new home alone. Unfortunately, an error was made in his ticket, and he was let off the train at Macklin, Saskatchewan. Not being able to speak a word of English, and wondering why his sisters were not there to meet him, he wandered through the town. A farmer in the area befriended him and spoke to him in German. He told him he would look after him and help him to locate his family. He then took Dad to his



Boettcher family — 1943. Back Row: Jacob, Arthur, Wilbert and Walter. Front Row: Elmer, Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. Boettcher, Irma and Albert.

home, where he used him as farm help for approximately six months without notifying authorities. He was badly mistreated by this family, working fourteen hours a day. The family searched for him, even had his picture in the newspapers. Finally a man that visited the farm where Dad was, recognized him from the pictures, notified the authorities, and the next day, a policeman placed him on the train and notified his family at Castor.

At the age of twenty-six, Dad married Lydia Leicht, born in 1904, oldest daughter of Jacob and Rosina Leicht. They began their married life at Loyalist, Alberta, and born to them were eight children. Their two eldest, Margaret, was born in 1925, and Wilbert in 1927.

Times were hard, but our dear Mom could make the best meal out of nothing. Never did any of us go hungry.

They then moved to Hemaruka, Alberta, where the next three children, all sons, were born. They were: Arthur, born in 1930, Jacob, born in 1932; and Walter, born in 1934. In 1936, they moved to Coronation where Elmer was born in 1936, Albert in 1938, and Irma in 1941.

In 1944, the Boettcher family moved their belongings and livestock to rent the Steve Zawalik farm, one and a half miles west of Holden. They farmed there for nine years. Mom and Dad then moved one mile east and two miles south of Holden to the Black farm, where they farmed until their retirement in 1958.

After a vacation to eastern Canada and the United States, they rented a little house in Ryley, while they built a new home. Mom and Dad enjoyed eighteen years of retirement, and in the spring our Dad became ill with cancer. That year we lost our Dad in 1979, at the age of 81 years.

Mom became ill two days before Dad's passing,



Lydia and Reinhold Boettcher, 1979.

with her heart. Six short weeks after we lost our Dad, our dear mother passed away suddenly, at the age of 75 years.

Left behind were 8 children, 31 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Margaret moved to Grande Prairie in 1944 and worked at radio station CFGP. She married LeRoy Tansem in 1945. They had six children; Linda, Beverly, Donald, Karen, Lori and Diann. They moved to Dawson Creek and lived there until 1963 when Margaret and the children moved to Edmonton. She is now married to Sandor Hegyi. She is working at the Edmonton Journal and has been blessed with seven grandchildren.

Wilbert accompanied Margaret to Grande Prairie. Later he joined the Armed Forces. He married Ann Cornelius from Mayerthorp, and they have four sons: Brian, Darryl, Murray and Colin. Wilbert became a welder and has a successful business, Arco Railings, at Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Later, Arthur too, went north to Grande Prairie, finding employment with McLeod Stores. He later returned to Holden, married Antonia Guhle from Daysland, and they have three children: Maureen, David and Rodney. Art is now Program Supervisor of Foster Care Services for the Province of Alberta, and they reside in Edmonton.

Jake worked for United Van Lines. He married Mary Hall from Calgary and they have six children: Doris, Jerry, Rodger, Harry, Jay, and Myra. They also have two grandchildren. He lives on a ranch just out of Calgary.

Walter worked for B.C. Hydro. He married Olive Shaw of Atlin, B.C. and they have two sons; Kenneth and Randall. Walter now lives on an acreage at

Courtney, B.C. and is employed by the school division.

Elmer spent many years in the Armed Forces. He married Elsie Fee of Viking. They have two sons: Gordon and Clifford. Elmer now lives at Nanaimo and is employed with the sawmill industry at Campbell River, B.C.

Albert has lived in Dawson Creek — Fort St. John area where he has a welding and trucking business. He married Irene Miller of Beaverlodge, and they have three sons: Dale, Calvin and Garry.

Irma moved to Edmonton where she has worked in the office of Mid-West Paper and Barber-Ellis Paper. She married Lawrence Berkholtz of Hay Lakes, and they have four children; Laurel, Scott, Greg and Gary. Irma and Lawrence own and operate a small dairy farm at Hay Lakes and have been blessed with two granddaughters.

Bowman, Gordon and Mary **by Mary Bowman**

We moved to Holden in the fall of 1954. Gordon was employed by Calgary Power Ltd. (now Trans Alta Utilities). At the time we had one son, Brian.

Holden was a friendly town and soon we were enjoying life in this small community. We have many fond memories of Holden and our friends there. While in Holden we had two more sons, Gary and Richard. In the fall of 1958 we moved to Provost, Alberta; there we had a daughter, Barbara.

Now twenty-four years later we are living in Sylvan Lake. Gordon is still employed with Trans Alta Utilities. Our family tree now includes; Brian, his wife Glenda and their three children, Cory, Krista and Michael. Gary and wife Sheila have two children, Tara and Matthew. Richard and his wife Debbie have one child, Rikki Michelle. Barbara is to be married in September, 1983 to Blaine Hanson of Red Deer.

Boyd, William and Elizabeth

In 1907 William Boyd, his wife Elizabeth and their children William and Margaret came to Canada from Kilsyth, Scotland. They settled at High River, Alberta. For the first year Bill dug coal from the banks of the Highwood River and sold it to the settlers. He filed on a homestead at Gladys Ridge. He drove a mail route with horses three times a week.

After proving up on his homestead he sold it and set up a butcher shop in Blackie. When W.W. I started he sold the shop and joined the army. The family moved to Calgary for the duration. When he returned after the war he bought a Soldiers' Settlement Board place three and a half miles north of



Bill Boyd, 1937.

Kinsella. Bill and son Bill arrived in a boxcar loaded with all their belongings. Mrs. Boyd and Margaret came later. They farmed until 1925.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd then moved to Holden where he operated a butcher shop. They were a friendly couple who supported local organizations. Mrs. Boyd was a nurse and when needed she served in that capacity. Mr. Boyd had a lot of fun at the expense of timid new brides. If one ever mentioned that the meat was tough he would silence them by saying "Its the cook."

After about twenty years they sold the butcher shop and moved back to Calgary where they lived until their deaths in 1962 and 1963.

Bratrud, Alvin and Selma **by Selma Bratrud**

Alvin was born in 1914 to Alfred and Anna Bratrud, who farmed in the Ryley district. He got his education at Salt Lake School. When he was thirteen years old, his father began to go blind, the result of the 1914 flu epidemic. Alvin had to take on more responsibilities, and eventually he had to help with the farming. When he was fifteen he had a bout with pneumonia which almost took his life.

Alvin took part in fastball, skating and Luther League. As there wasn't much money in those days the young people made their own fun. There were house parties and choir practice where there was an organ.

Threshing time was a highlight of the young men's lives. They worked hard for \$1.50 a day, or if they had a team and wagon they got \$2.50, half of



Alvin and Selma Bratrud.

which went to help pay the threshing bill. There are many memories of the fun they had at night before they settled down to bed which was usually in the hay loft.

In 1935 Alvin married Selma Gunderson, and moved to the former Hans Sandvick farm. Our first furniture cost \$75.00, which was a lot of money in those days. We milked cows, sold cream for butterfat at 29¢ a pound, and eggs at 10¢ a dozen. We sold grain one year for 19¢ a bushel. We farmed with horses and did all the hard work by hand like pitching hay, shoveling grain and walking behind the harrow and four horses. Time went on when tractors became more plentiful, and better machinery was bought. In 1940 we built a new barn with lumber hauled from Buck Lake at a cost of \$300.00. Alvin and Clarence Hellekson made all the shingles out of poplars, which they cut into blocks first, then into shingles. In the 1950's combines came into being and the threshing days were over.

We have four children, Shirley, Lyle, Keith and Joyce. In 1956 Shirley married Peter Remple, a



Alvin Bratrud family — 43rd Anniversary. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bratrud. Standing: Shirley, Lyle, Joyce and Keith.

teacher from Tofield. They have six children, four sons and two chosen children; Jim, Douglas, Brian, Allen, Jenny and little Christopher. They are involved with Social Services, and care for many babies and mistreated children until they are adopted. They have cared for fifty babies or more. Peter is a dispatcher for Hill's Security. Lyle and Keith are both farming (see their story). Joyce married Adrian Berquist, a farmer near Bawlf. They have three children: Karen, Shyla and Merlin.

Alvin fought cancer for four years until he passed away in 1979. We built a new house on the farm, where I still reside. Our sons now farm the land.

Bratrud, Keith Marvin by Diane Bratrud

Keith was born in 1940, the third child of Alvin and Selma Bratrud. He attended Palmer School, riding his horse "Nigger". He stayed at home with his parents and farmed when he was through school. In 1958 he bought the Tom Bratrud farm. His first crop was snowed under and was not taken off until spring. During the winters of 1960-1962 Keith worked in the North with a seismograph crew, spending his time off at his Uncle Henry Gunderson's at Valhalla Centre.

I was born in Camrose in 1949, youngest daughter of Don and Gwen Campbell of Ryley. I always enjoyed the outdoors and as a youngster spent a lot of time with my Dad. I guess I would have been classed a regular "tom boy". I attended school in Ryley and then worked at the Camrose I.G.A. store and at Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose.

In 1966 Keith bought the Tom Nalesnik farm which would be known to many as the old Stickland place. Keith and I were married that same year and moved to this farm where we grain-farmed, and over the years had beef cattle and also a dairy herd. In 1981 we sold our dairy cows and now just have beef cattle.



Keith Bratrud family. Back Row: Peggy Bratrud, Laird Burchill, Keith Bratrud. Front Row: Scott and Diane Bratrud.

We have two children, both attend Ryley school. Peggy born in 1966, has plans of becoming a nurse or a child psychologist. She also enjoys piano and takes lessons in Camrose. Scott born in 1969, likes the outdoors, riding his motor bike or helping his dad around the farm. His ambition is to become a farmer.

In 1977 Laird Burchill came from Edmonton to make his home with us. He was fifteen at the time, spending almost five years in our home, and we think of him as part of our family. He adapted to farm life very well, and learned all aspects of farm work, all of which he was good at. In 1981 he became employed by the U.F.A. in Camrose and that same year he married Marlene Hellekson (see Allan Hellekson Story). They reside in Camrose.

Bratrud, Lyle Family

Lyle Alfred was born to Alvin and Selma Bratrud in 1939. He attended Palmer and Holden Schools. After working in Edmonton and Camrose, he started his own moving business in 1959, (North West Moving).

In 1961 he married Delores Osness of Kingman who had just graduated from Royal Alexandra School of Nursing. They continued to live in Edmonton until 1964 when they moved to the farm which they had purchased from Joe Gunderson. Five children were born to this union. Dale in 1962, attended Ryley School and now farms with his father. Ricky born in 1964, graduates from Ryley this spring will go on to Camrose Lutheran College. Darren born in 1965, Shelly in 1969, and Mark in 1974 are still at school.

Gary Southern made his home with the Bratruds as a foster child from 1965-7 and seemed like a big



Lyle Bratrud family: Darren, Dale, Delores, Mark, Shelly, Lyle and Ricky.

brother to the boys. He lives on an acreage at Stony Plain with his wife and three children.

Lyle farms, and raises and shows purebred horned Herefords, and Delores is nursing at the Daysland Hospital.

The whole family enjoys music and playing instruments. They enjoy curling with their family team at Gladstone Rink. They also enjoy showing cattle, and travel to many shows and sales, as well as being active members in Ryley 4 H Beef Club for the past twelve years. A big part of their life centers around their little country church — Zion Lutheran. They all love the community in which they live and cherish the friendship of the many friends and neighbors around them.

Bratrud, Thomas and Family

Thomas Oscar Bratrud was born at Kenseth, Iowa, in 1882. When a youth, he and his parents moved to Presho, South Dakota. He was the eldest son of Harold and Kari Bratrud. He had ten brothers and one sister. Tom worked on the spring and fall cattle roundups along the White and Bad rivers in the southern part of the state during the years 1900 and 1901. In 1902 Tom and his father came to Alberta (still the Northwest Territories) and Tom homesteaded on the SW-16-48-17. In the winter months he worked to prove up his homestead by clearing the trees and in the summer time he worked with horses on the building of the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific railroad grades. Tom's wife, Kari (Ritland) was the second daughter of Jacob and Ingabor Ritland. She was born at Corning, Iowa in 1882. The Ritlands moved to Fort Pierre, South Dakota where they lived for several years. They came to



Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Bratrud (Wedding picture).

Canada in 1903 where Jacob homesteaded approximately six miles southwest of Holden. Kari went to high school in Edmonton and then to Normal School in Calgary. In 1906 she was a member of the first class of teacher graduates in Alberta. She then taught for ten years at the Palmer, Salt Lake, Willowdale, Amisk Creek and Shelburne schools. Tom and Kari were married in 1915 at the Ritland home in Holden. Tom sold his homestead and purchased the SW $\frac{1}{2}$ -6-48-16. They built a new house on this, the home quarter and later bought the north N $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-48-17. They farmed until 1952 when they retired to live in Camrose. The farm was later sold to a grand nephew, Keith Bratrud.



Tom and Carrie's 40th Anniversary.

While living in the Palmer district Kari and Tom were active participants in all worthwhile projects. They both worked towards the building of the Zion Lutheran Church and in the rebuilding after the fire at Christmas in 1935. Kari was for many years the treasurer of the Zion L.C.W. She was very active in the local Red Cross during the first and second world wars. Tom was treasurer for a time for the Palmer S.D. #1204. He passed away in 1962. Kari lived for some years with her daughter Thelma, at Innisfail, but now at age 99 is at the Red Deer Nursing Home. Tom and Kari had two daughters, Constance and Thelma, and two sons, Harold and Clayton.



Carrie Bratrud on her 95th birthday.

Harold was born in 1919 and attended school at Palmer, Holden and Salt Lake Schools. He graduated from Camrose Lutheran College in 1940. He worked with his father on the farm until he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1942. He took his pilot training and graduated from the service flying school in 1943 at Dauphin, Manitoba as a commissioned pilot officer. After a course for flying instructors he served at stations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba until his release in 1945. During this time he met Jeanette (Nettie) Hamilton a nursing assistant with the R.C.A.F. They were married in uniform at Calgary in the Air Force Chapel in 1945.

Harold then attended University of B.C. in Van-

couver. A year later he returned to help his dad on the farm. In 1947 they returned to the armed forces. Harold served the R.C.A.F. for 17 years at several stations. He retired in 1964 and commenced a new career with the Energy Resources Conservation Board as a staff inspector.



The Nettie and Harold Bratrud family: Janice, Carolyn, Ardis, James, Tom, Nettie and Harold.

Harold and Nettie are now operating a hobby farm raising registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, which they show at major centres. They both take an active part in community affairs, and occasionally take time to relax at a game of golf.

Harold and Nettie are blessed with five children.

Carolyn was born in 1945 and married Jack Irving in 1965. They reside in Olds, where Jack operates a steel building franchise, and Carolyn works as a legal secretary. They have two sons.

Tom was born in 1946, and married Myra Buchowsky in 1969. Tom is chief engineer for Nowco Well Service Ltd. in Calgary; Myra teaches and they have one son.

Janice, born in 1948 married Leo Kylo in 1968. Janice is a graduate in Education from the U. of A. Leo owns his own Development, Planning, and Consulting firm in Calgary. They have three sons.

Ardis, born in 1954, married Marshall Eliason in 1975. They moved to Lethbridge after graduating from the U. of A. Marshall is a practising Agricultural Engineer while Ardis has a degree in Business Education.

James born in 1963, finished high school in 1981 and joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He is currently taking courses and training in electronics, communications and radar at bases in Ontario.

Constance was born at Holden in 1916. She was educated at Palmer and Holden High Schools. After graduating in 1935 she attended Misericordia Hospi-

tal and graduated in 1938 as a nurse. She was on staff at Spirit River, Alberta and Smithers, B.C. She later went to Quesnel, B.C. and then to Powell River. After taking post graduate work in surgery she served as surgery supervisor and hospital administrator at Powell River, Chilliwack and Red Deer. After several years in clinic management, Constance retired in 1979 after a 41 year career. In 1954 she married Jack Tough an advertising artist. Since then they have lived in Belleville, Washington. Both are active in the Lutheran Church there.



Connie, Clayton, Thelma and Harold Bratrud, 1980.

Thelma went to school at Palmer, Holden High, and Salt Lake. After graduating from Camrose Lutheran College she attended Edmonton Normal. She taught at Worsley, Coutts and Unity Schools. Thelma then married Emil Dorin (see Dorin family story). She taught at Alberta Correspondence School and is still teaching for the County of Red Deer.

Clayton was a mechanic and worked in Viking and Camrose. He served on Camrose volunteer fire brigade. He worked in northern B.C. on the Alaska Highway. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an engineer artificer and became a Chief Petty Officer working on supply boats in Halifax harbour. After the war he had a garage with an auto-body shop in Smiths Falls, Ontario, where he is now retired. He married Margaret (Peggy) Fraser of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia in 1947. Peggy passed away in 1978. Clayton has two daughters, Jean of Ottawa; and Constance (Connie) married to Stephen Ryan of Smiths Falls. They have one daughter.

Brekstad, Chetney, Hanson Families

The following story will relate the introduction and intermingling of the Hanson and Chetney families during the early days of the Holden district and the dispersion of these families to the current time.

The first member of these two families to arrive in the Holden area was Ole Chetney. He walked from Wetaskiwin to Vermilion in 1898. At that time he staked a homestead which was later to be identified as S.E. 4-49-16. But it wasn't until 1904 that Ole, and his brother Bernt, returned from South Dakota to take up homestead with Ole, making his home on S.E. 4, and Bernt on SW 4-49-16. Ole and Bernt were brothers from a family of fourteen who were born in Trondheim, Norway. They emigrated from Norway to the United States and then moved to Canada. Their brothers, Olaf and Gunder, moved from Wisconsin and South Dakota to Saskatchewan, and Olaf moved to the Holden area in 1916.



Inga and Bernt Chetney and daughter Ethel.

The homesteader's life was a meagre existence that often required working at various jobs, and only living on the land long enough to "prove" the homestead and make some improvements; e.g. building a house and clearing the land. Bernt arrived in 1904, shortly after he built a small log house with a sod roof. The roof was changed to a shingle roof and was used until early 1914. The sod roof proved to create a unique environment during rains. For the first day or two of the rain the roof would appear waterproof,

shedding most of the rain, but after a couple of days' rain, the roof would become saturated and begin to drip until the excess moisture disappeared from the sod. From 1904 through 1909 Bernt interspersed his homesteader labours with various other jobs. He worked in logging camps, worked in the Wetaskiwin Hotel for the winter of 1909, and served in the cook house on the construction of the railroad through Wetaskiwin. Bernt was also one of the first persons in the area to possess a camera: an Eastman box camera that he carried from Wetaskiwin. He took many pictures and developed them and even today several of his negatives are in excellent condition.

The clearing of the land and the construction of buildings required many hours of manual labour. Bernt was assisted by a team of oxen that he purchased from another homesteader.

In spite of the hardships and hard work, love could still flourish. In 1913 Bernt married Inga Hanson (sister of the late Henry Hanson). The union produced four children: Ethel, Arthur, Myrtle and Olive. Arthur and Myrtle both died at a very early age. Olive went to Vermillion Valley School, Holden School and worked at various jobs in Holden and Edmonton before moving to Vancouver in 1947. While in Vancouver, she married August Erickson; she passed away in 1954. Ethel, educated in Vermillion Valley and Holden Schools, remained in the Holden area. She married Hans Brekstad, who immigrated to the area from Trondheim, Norway in 1927. Hans was overseas from 1942 to 1945 in the armed forces and learned the trades of shoemaking, carpentry and blacksmithing.



Mary Andrews.

Olaf Chetney, a baker by trade, emigrated first from Norway to Wisconsin, where he worked in a bakery. Lured on by his older brothers, and the lure of farming in Canada, he immigrated to Saskatchewan to his brother Gunder. After experiencing the dust and wind storms of southern Saskatchewan for a short time, he joined his brothers, Ole and Bernt, in the Holden area and settled on N.W. 22-49-16. Later he bought SW 27-49-16 and moved the buildings there. Olaf was a councillor for several years for the M.D. of Beaver Lake #486. He also ran the company threshing rig (a Case tractor and Red River Special separator) until the arrival of the combine in 1950. Interestingly, Alfred Chetney, the son of Olaf's brother Gunder, currently resides on Olaf's farm.

All three brothers played active roles in various aspects of the area. Bernt was probably one of the first adult students at Vermillion Valley School. He attended classes in order to learn English. Bernt was a founding member, and one of the first telephone subscribers of the South Holden Mutual Telephone.

Bernt's wife was also of Norwegian descent. Her parents, Ole and Ingeborg had, as many Scandinavians, immigrated to South Dakota first. The Dakotas were also a very harsh environment and many people, like the Hansons, migrated to homesteads in Canada. Ole (Vig) Hanson took up a homestead on

SE 28-48-16 in 1902. They had a family of seven; Henry, Oscar, Rachael, Inga, Eric, Gena and Mary. Ingeborg died in 1906 and Ole and the children struggled through the hardship of homesteading as a family unit. Several of the children married and resided in the Holden area. Henry married Frances Gorrie and farmed until moving to Holden in 1939. Gena married a local boy, Ben Evenson. Eric died in 1914. The two youngest girls, Inga and Mary married and remained in the area. Mary married Lloyd Andrews and Inga married Bernt Chetney.



Olive Chetney.



Ole Hanson and Ethel Chetney.

Ole Hanson donated one acre of land for the building of the Vermillion Valley school. His place was also a stopping point on the Battleford Trail, a well travelled route that wound its way from North Battleford to Wetaskiwin. He was a stonemason and blacksmith by trade.

In early days, and also during the depression, ingenious and innovative ideas were necessary to exist. Many of these hardships may not be remembered by all, but are an important part of the past. To provide light in the home, some homesteaders used an invention called a 'bitch'. This light consisted of a hollowed out turnip or potato filled with fat or grease. Into the grease was placed a rag, or if available, a cord that served as a wick. Lacking the tools to grind wheat into flour, and lacking money to pay for the grinding, the ladies pounded wheat into flour to make bread. The only meat during the summer months was salt pork and chicken until the South Holden meat ring was formed. The farmers that formed this meat ring provided one animal per person whenever his turn came up. It was butchered and delivered. During the depression, improvisation was often essential. Coffee, or a coffee substitute, was made from wheat — an early version of decaffeinated

nated coffee! Jute sacks were used as hand towels. Ole and Bernt prepared their own snuff from ground tobacco.

There are also some memorable events that contribute to the history of the area. The Chautauqua was a highlight of entertainment for a number of years. This consisted of a casino, live entertainment of plays, songs, etc., housed in a big tent, each day featuring a different show. They stayed in Holden for two or three days at a time.

In 1928, the infestation of caterpillars was so great that the trains could not operate. The railroad tracks were a slippery, slimy mass of caterpillar bodies. The hailstorm of 1931 was devastating and was indelibly carved in the memory of those who witnessed it. Pillows, blankets, coats, quilts, literally anything that would cushion the impact of hailstones on glass was placed against windows to reduce damage caused by the hail. Bernt Chetney's wheat crop was cut to silage. In an attempt to salvage the crop for cattle feed, the grain was cut with a hay mower and "bucked" into stacks with a bucking pole. The garden took such a beating from the hail that in the days following the storm, the garden smelled like rotten sauerkraut.

Of more recent memory is the blizzard of March 1951. Many roads remained blocked until the spring thaw melted the snow. Hans Brekstad, although only a mile and a half from Holden, skied to town for groceries. A month after the storm, he made the trip with a team of horses and a sleigh. A route from hill to hill was used to make the trip as easy as possible, but the short trip took two and one half hours. A tunnel was dug through a snowdrift, so that the half ton truck could get from the garage to the road . . . a month after the storm! They didn't seem to have snowplows because, when it got mild, the neighbours got together to open the roads. They used a wagon and several horses and the men shovelled as well. By getting the banks cut up they would melt quicker and made it possible to use the road.

When Hans returned from overseas they took up mixed farming, first on rented land then in 1947 they bought NW 10-49-16. Besides farming Hans did carpenter work. In 1964 they purchased NW 22-49-16 and SW 27-49-16 from Olaf Chetney. Hans passed away in 1968 while holidaying at Banff. Ethel stayed on the farm until 1973 when she moved to Holden to take up residence in the house previously owned by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Bernt Chetney.

Ethel and Hans raised three sons, Claire, Leslie and Ralph. Leslie's twin sister passed away in infancy. Claire completed his grade 12 and also took several courses in electronics. However being a lover



Hans Brekstad and sons: Ralph, Leslie, Claire.

of outdoor life he has worked in several logging camps. He and Audrey live at Golden, B.C.

Leslie worked at the Post Office and several other jobs before he joined the air force in 1962. In 1963 at Clinton, Ontario he passed his radar television exam with honors. Later he took his grade 12 and in 1971 he graduated from the University of Manitoba in electri-



Ethel Brekstad and family. Left Top to Bottom: Sheri, Ralph and Susan. Right Top to Bottom: Leslie, Carol and Lee. Centre: Ethel.

cal engineering. Major Brekstad has been with the armed forces ever since and is presently base commanding officer at Inuvik. Leslie and Carol have two girls, Sheri and Lee.

Ralph, after completing high school in 1965 went to work for Woodwards in Edmonton. In 1971 he was transferred to Calgary and the following year to Vancouver. He is now senior buyer for footwear and children's wear for Woodwards bargain stores. Ralph and Susan have one son, Ryan.

The house where Ethel now lives has had a varied life. The main structure was built about 1915 and originally served as a jail. For a period of time it perhaps served as the headquarters for a Royal North West Mounted Police detachment. From its demise as a police headquarters and jail, it served as a residence for many people; Taale Thompson and family, Henry Oberg and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bernt Chetney, Dick Loney and family, Reinold Grinde and family, Floyd Ermantrout and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Taylor, Mike and Marion Tkaczyk, and Mrs. Malowany.

Brige, Emil

Emil came to Alberta with his parents at the age of 17 in 1924. His parents migrated from Hatton, Saskatchewan with a wagon train, driving their horses a certain number of miles each day. Emil helped his parents farm north of Bruce.

In 1931 he married Cledina Schmautz, and started farming on his own. They had five children, Herbert, Agnes, Victor, Violet and Elmer. In 1940 the family



Victor, Violet, Cledina Brige, Emil, Elmer Brige, Grandma Barbara Schmautz.

moved to Chilliwack, B.C. There they had a small dairy farm and also raised some chickens. In 1949 they moved back to Alberta where they had a mixed farm, and Emil did carpenter work for other people. In 1969 Emil had to give up farming for health reasons. He built a house in Viking where he and his wife moved. He passed away in 1970 at the age of 63.



Four Generations: Rose and August Brige (Grandma and Grandpa), Emil Brige, Lawrence Brige, Herb Brige.

Brigge, August, Family

In 1924 August and Rosina Brigge left Saskatchewan with their family and settled on a farm twelve miles south of Vegreville. Otto was twelve years old at the time.

Otto farmed here, and in 1935 married Irma Albrecht. His father built a house on the property across from the Longridge School in 1936. August held a sale in 1943, then moved to the Chilliwack area. Otto, Irma and their three daughters Lorraine, Phyllis and Dolores moved onto this farm. Lorraine and Phyllis attended Longridge. Their first teacher was Miss Marion Malcom. Later Otto and Irma had a son Dentis, born in 1946.

In October 1946 Otto held a sale and moved to a dairy farm in Rosedale, B.C. The children attended school and grew up in the Chilliwack area.

In 1969 Otto and Irma sold out and moved into Chilliwack. Otto worked as a maintenance man at



August and Rosina Brigge.



Marion Malcolm (teacher), Lorraine and Phyllis Brigge, in 1945.

Meadowlands Golf Course until he retired in 1975. He then golfed almost every day. In 1979 he had a heart attack on the golf course and died on the way to the hospital. Irma still lives at their home on Maple Avenue.

Lorraine married John Wedler, a professional engineer. They have two sons, Robert and Alan.

Phyllis lives in Langley, B.C. Her husband Robert Menges, is a car dealer. Phyllis works at the Taxation Centre in Surrey. They have one daughter Gail and a son Donald.

Delores married Carl Augustine, a tugboat operator. They live in Hope where Delores is a school custodian. They have two daughters Cindy and Valerie.

Dennis married Donna Bohac and lives in Langley. He is a welder at the Vancouver shipyards. They have two girls Angela, Yvonne and one boy David.

Brisbin, Family

by Frank Gordon Brisbin

Father — Charles Nelson Brisbin, b. Harriston, in 1879. Son of Wesley M. Brisbin and Margaret Staples. One sister — Charlotte, who married Albert Stewart in Holden area. Charles moved with his family to Holden area ca. 1900. He became high school teacher, and farmed during World War I.

Mother — Mary Elizabeth Kennedy, b. Leeds, England, in 1887. They moved to Holden area ca. 1900, with two sons — William and Gordon and one daughter.

I was born in 1919 to Charles and Mary Brisbin who lost a daughter, Margaret, at age five, of pneumonia. About six months later, in 1921, Charles Brisbin died of the same cause.

Mother worked in Edmonton for many years, where my brother and I received our education. I received a B.A. in 1939 and a B.D. in 1944. I was ordained to the Ministry of the United Church in Edmonton in 1942 and served in Cadomin until 1944. I then married Louise Clendenning, who was born in Harding, Manitoba, in 1918.

Louise and I moved to Stavely, Alberta, where we lived for four years. Our oldest daughter, Lorraine, was born there in 1946. In 1948 we moved to Toronto, where I worked in Metropolitan United Church in the city core until 1959, when we moved to St. Giles United Church in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1968, we returned to Toronto, when I was appointed secretary of the Division of Communication for the United Church. I expect to retire in late 1983.

We have four daughters, Lorraine, Virginia, Helen and Eleanor each married and one son Allen, unmarried.

Brushett, William and Daisy

In 1940, I was marking Grade 12 Examination papers in Edmonton when I was approached by Mr. J. H. McLean and Mr. Wm. Fleming and asked if I would consider taking the position of principal of Holden School. I had recently resigned as principal of Hillcrest School in the Crow's Nest Pass where, due to the closing of the Hillcrest Collieries coal mine, the town of Hillcrest might become a ghost town. I had known Mr. McLean for several years as principal of Bellevue School just across the Old Man river from Hillcrest. He had been appointed Superintendent of schools for the Holden Division in 1938. Mr. Fleming was Royal Bank manager at Holden and chairman of the Holden School Board at that time.

Salaries on the prairies were not very high even by depression standards at that time — I believe the salary offered for the position of principal was \$1500. However, as Holden was relatively close to Edmonton where my wife's family lived, we agreed to go to Holden for one year. That year lengthened out to be twenty-four years for various reasons not the least of which were the wonderful people living in Holden and vicinity, their kindness and hospitality.

Our first problem at Holden was to find a place to live. The only place available was a small house on the eastern outskirts of town. This house had no basement and no facilities at all except a connection to a natural gas line, and two electric outlets. We had gas heaters installed and insulated the house before winter. Over the years with some help from friendly neighbors we made the place into a fairly comfortable home.

In 1940 the school was, I believe, the original at that location — a two storey, four classroom building plus basement. There was also a building which accommodated Industrial Arts and Home Economics. This accommodation became inadequate very soon and we had to put academic classes in the Shop and Home Economics building and even had classes in the basement of the school before the new Junior High building was erected. With this building we acquired a small gymnasium in the basement area. With the arrival of the policy of gradual consolidation of one and two room schools in the surrounding area and the busing of students from these schools to the neighboring towns, Holden had a high school built consisting of four classrooms, a tiny library, and a small office. This also soon became inadequate and a new building to accommodate Grades one to six, together with a large gymnasium, was built. A new modern library was later added.

Our years at Holden were years of growth as far as the school was concerned. The school had become a fairly large school with a teaching staff of up to

seventeen or eighteen including "Shop" and Home Economics.

School activities were not confined to the fundamentals of classroom work. In sports at first, the competition in hockey in the Gas Line League was most popular but this gave way to basketball after the large gyms were built. Curling was enjoyed by some and Holden boys played in the finals of the Taylor and Pearson high school competitions in Edmonton. Holden School also took part in inter-school track meets, had annual school concerts, arranged career seminars for students, and of course had the parents over to see us on parent visitation days.

My wife and I think of our stay in Holden as a very enjoyable but very busy one. Extra curricular activities at the school, community and church engagements, and social activities took up a lot of our time.

Problems at school were minimal. The teaching and other staff were, with few exceptions, always cooperative — in other words we always had a fine staff. I could name some exceptionally fine teachers but this is not the occasion to do so.

The object of grade school education is to give students a basic education and a healthy outlook on life so that they may help themselves, and others, to enjoy whatever vocation they choose to follow in later years. I believe our Holden students are doing just that — at least I have heard from, and met, a lot of them since leaving Holden and none are misfits in our society.

Our son, Edward R. Brushett, received most of his grade education in Holden. He is married to the former Dolores McLean, daughter of H. J. McLean. They are living now in Calgary, and have a son Donald. Ed is manager of the Environment Protection Department of the Alberta Resources Conservation Board. Dolores is a nurse in the Calgary Foothills Hospital.

Dolores' father, Mr. H. J. McLean, became Superintendent of Schools for Holden School Division in 1938. He remained in that position until his death in 1945. Mrs. McLean went to Coleman, Alberta, where she taught school for awhile, then she moved to Calgary and taught until she retired. She is now living in her own home in North Calgary.

Our brother-in-law Mr. Thomas Horn, was manager of the Royal Bank at Holden from 1945 to 1948. He then went to Hanna, and from there retired to Edmonton. Mrs. Horn is now living at Canterbury Court in Edmonton.

Budd, Bruce and Mae by Bruce and Mae

We came to Holden in February 1947. The family

consisted of Mae and Bruce, and two month old Linda. We bought into a partnership in a welding business with Lawrence Ritland and rented a small house belonging to Mrs. Grycan on third avenue east, for \$10 a month. The business increased tremendously and by September we bought out our partner.



Bruce and Mae Budd, 1944.

As the business prospered, our family grew. In 1948 our son Tom was born. Now, housing became even more acute. My wife was not enthralled with the idea of washing everything in the salt water I carried from the town well in five gallon buckets. A house with a cistern was a priority.

In 1949, long time friends and contractors, Adam and Conrad Giebelhaus, agreed to build our modest three bedroom home from some rough drawings we had made. Loans from the bank for such purposes were not readily available at that time, so we hoped for a good summer's trade and plunged in. In December, 1949, our red-headed daughter's third birthday was made happy by having her very own bedroom. The house was finished on the outside, and the inside was left for us to do during the winter. We paid the contractors \$4250 but there was little money left to hire tradesman, so we filled the drywall joints and painted, nailed down hardwood floors, built the cup-



Bruce Budd's shop.

boards and did the bathroom plumbing, even built our first gas furnace.

Giebelhaus Brothers also built our new business premises in 1952. The next big event in our lives happened in 1954, when we bought our first car, after we had been married for ten years.

In 1954 we had an addition to the family of a son, James, who was a delight to his older brother and sister.

In 1957 we became the agents for John Deer Implements. We added on to the premises to make way for a larger stock of parts. In 1960 John M. Ogonoski began working as a service man at the shop which began a good relationship that extended until we sold out. We changed the dealership in 1969 to Case-New Holland and continued to serve the farming community until 1978 when we sold out to Ronald Chetney.

Our family grew up and Linda graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Ed. degree in 1969. In 1970 she married Kenneth May of Calgary, a Captain in the R.C.A.F.

Tom received his B.A. degree in 1969 and eventually received a diploma as a chartered accountant. In 1973 he married Joan Hughes a school teacher of music from High River, Alberta.

James stayed at home and began farming in 1975. He married Lorie Jeffrey of Holden in 1976.

We sold our home and built a new one at 5209-



Bruce Budd family. Back Row: Joan, Graham, Tom, Linda, Ken May, Jim, Laurie. Front Row: Holly, Mae, Cory, Bruce and Trevor.

51 Ave. in 1977, and have continued living in Holden since our retirement.

Bruce first came to Holden riding the freight train in the fall of 1938. He worked for Clint Armstrong, Lefty Clark, Norman Campbell, Chris Christensen and Metro Salamandick. With the latter he broke a lot of land around Holden in 1939. In 1940 he worked for Northwestern Utilities, and in 1941 took a course in welding at the technical school in Calgary. Later he worked at Aircraft Repairs in Edmonton as a welder. He finally joined the navy and went overseas, returning in 1945.

After coming back to Holden in 1947, he joined the Legion and the Masonic Lodge. He played baseball and hockey with Holden in the Gas Line League between 1938 and 1948. He was a member of the town council for fifteen years or more, some as mayor. He had a term as president of the Home and School Association. He was associated with William Beckstead and Don Allan in organizing the Sea Cadets in Holden during 1955-58. He was a member of the committee organizing the Holden and District Agricultural Society in 1973 and served as a member of the board for some years.

The Village of Holden built a new fire hall in 1948 and purchased a new fire truck. Bruce was elected as fire chief of the volunteer fire brigade for ten years. The fire department made ice on the open air rink until 1955-56 when the town installed water and sewer.

Bruce was an ardent curler, and was president of the club when they decided to remodel the curling rink into a three sheet rink. With much help from Abe Black, Zane Bilyk and others, they promoted a car bingo in the Paragon Theatre in 1954, which was a huge success.

Bruce and I have enjoyed our life here, especially the square dance club in the early fifties. At one time we attended twelve square dances in two weeks. Art Greenwood, Ed Erickson and Earl Hardy were all very good at calling these dances. The round dances were a real treat. We had an excellent club in Holden.

Budzinski, Steve

Steve (Stanislaus) Budzinski was born in 1885 in the town of Czortkov in Eastern Galicia, which at that time was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He came to Canada in 1904 following his older brother John. Three other brothers, Peter, Vincent and Joseph and one sister Sophie (Leiber) also immigrated to Canada and settled in the Haight area. Another brother Frank and two sisters, Mary and Anne remained in the old country.



Katharine and Steve Budzinski.

Steve worked for awhile in Manitoba on the railroads before moving to Alberta. One of his more memorable jobs was his participation in the construction of the Alberta Legislative Building around the year 1911.

In May of 1911, Steve married Katharine Kozoway.

Katharine, was born in 1893 in the village of Malniev, near Mostiska in eastern Galicia. At the age of eight she arrived in Canada in 1901 with her father, Theodore Kozoway and mother Anna Kohan, one sister Paraskevia and brothers Dmytro and Fred. Three other sisters, Mary, Palagia and Anne were born in Canada.

Steve and Katharine lived in Edmonton until 1914, when he bought a quarter section of land at NE ¼ 30-51-16-W4 about seven miles north of Haight. He farmed the quarter until his death in 1954. Katharine is now residing in the Extended Care Unit of the Mundare Hospital.



Steve and Katharine Budzinski family. Standing: John, Michael, Jane Wright, Adam, Emil. Seated: Polly Navarro, Anne Wasylik, Katharine Budzinski, Pearl Krysa, Mabel Sharun and Lillian Sikora.

Twelve children were born of this union. Pearl (Mrs. Paul Krysa) resides in Mundare, Mabel (Mrs. Harry Sharun) in Chipman Alberta, Ann (Mrs. Steve Wasylik) in Edmonton, Polly (Mrs. Joseph Navarro) in California, John in Edmonton, Lillian (Mrs. Bill Sikora) in Edmonton, Mike in Edmonton, Jane (Mrs. Robert Wright) in Edmonton, Adam in California and Emil in Ottawa. Two sons, Peter 1916 and Dominic 1935 died in infancy.

John served overseas in Europe in the Armed Forces from 1940-1945 during which time he obtained the rank of Corporal.

Mike served from 1943-1945 in the Canadian Postal Corps in Ottawa.

Burnstad, Oscar by Grace Burnstad

Oscar Gabriel Burnstad, born in Drummond, Norway in 1884, came to Holden from North Dakota in 1905. He took a homestead on the site that is now Poe (NW 30-49-16-W4). In 1910 he married Olga Marie Christianson, born in Revillo, South Dakota in 1889. She came to the Martins district with her family in 1902. With her younger sister Lilly, she drove one of the family wagons out from Wetaskiwin, where they had spent the winter, having come by railway from the U.S.A. She was only twelve years old on that drive and Lilly was ten; but every hand was needed.



Oscar and Ghost of Russia.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnstad settled just south west of Holden on the land that later became the Henry and Frances Hanson farm. The Holden reservoir is situated on part of that land. Oscar raised horses. Two mares, Lilly of the Valley and Pearl, earned prizes from the Percheron Society of America. Until the mid twenties he also contracted to provide poles for Alberta Government Telephones and ties for the Edmonton street railway.



Golden Anniversary in 1960: Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Burnstad.

During the depression he worked in the north for Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. Most of his time in these years was taken up with prospecting. Even after he retired he made several trips back north to prospect; the last time in 1958 when he was 74 years old.

Mr. Burnstad died in 1972, at the age of 88 years. His wife Olga died in 1974, almost 85.

Cadger, James and Annabelle

James Cadger was born in 1890 in Antamford, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, the third member of the John and Barbara Cadger family of eleven children. After leaving school at an early age, he worked as a farm servant, contributing wages to help raise the younger members of the family.

In 1910 James came to Canada and landed in Halifax. He made his way to the Keewatin and Lake of the Woods areas in Ontario where he worked in bush camps. He spent time in the Swift Current area at farm work, but dust storms, wind and drought were too much. He then worked on Alberta railroads driving horses.

After World War I was declared, Jim enlisted in the Canadian Engineers at Edmonton in 1916. He served in the 13th Field Company, Canadian Engineers, 5th Battalion, in France, Germany and

Belgium until 1919, when he was discharged by reason of demobilization without serious injuries.

After being discharged at Edmonton he decided to go farming on one quarter section of Soldier Settlement land SE 24-49-16, breaking up land and building a home for the future.

In 1921 James was united in marriage to Annabelle Bisset who had been born in 1896 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, the sixth member of the Joseph and Jane Bisset family, which later numbered eleven.

Jim and Annabelle struggled and worked together on their farm during a career that extended over twenty-eight years. They gradually and successfully built their farm up to one section of land. There was a gravel pit opened on their farm from which tons of gravel and sand were hauled to Holden for foundations and sidewalks. A lovely soft water well was dug in the gravel pit. It provided water for years. In the early years they shipped cream to the Royal George Hotel in Edmonton. Later on, Annabelle churned the cream, made her own pound prints with a wooden print, wrapped it in butter paper and sold it to T. A. Liden's Store in Holden.

During the years James served on the Holden School Board along with T. A. Liden and William (Bill) Fleming. James was also an active member of the Holden Royal Canadian Legion.



Jim and Annabelle's wedding.



Annabelle, Jim and son Walter.

James and Annabelle celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1946, on a Sunday afternoon, when a large gathering of family, friends and neighbors surprised them at their home.

In 1949 they sold one half section of their land to John and Katie Misyk, where Arthur Scabar now resides. The other half section was sold to their daughter Beatrice and her husband Jim Christianson, where the Walter Pobrans now live. Cadgers then moved to Blackfalds where James and son Walter operated a garage and oil distributing partnership from 1949 to 1957.

Annabelle made one trip back to Scotland by plane and boat in 1948, and they both made an air flight back home in 1958. James and Annabelle celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Blackfalds in 1971, with many old friends and family attending.



50th Anniversary of James and Annabelle Cadger.

After retiring from business they resided in Blackfalds until 1973 when they moved to a senior's lodge in Lacombe. They remained there until 1978 when they moved to Camrose Bethany Home to be near their daughter.

They had two children, one son Walter James, born in 1922 and one daughter, Beatrice Myra, born in 1924.

In 1980, James passed away in Bethany Nursing Home, aged 89 years. He is buried at Alberta Memorial Gardens, east of Red Deer. Annabelle, at 86, is still enjoying fair health at Bethany Home.

Cadger, Walter James

Walter was born in Holden in 1922, only son of James and Annabelle Cadger. He was educated in the Holden School, and later worked for Burns Creamery, Albert Pederson's garage and bulk fuel station, Searle Grain elevator, and helped his dad on the farm.

As he was growing up he became interested in music, played the button accordeon, and advanced to the piano accordeon, playing for various groups for dances. He played with the Holden Ruskenveld Orchestra for many weddings and anniversaries.

In 1945 Walter married Agnes Krupa from South Holden. He went farming with his dad for a short time. He then lived at Blackfalds where he was employed by a grain company, and later on he and his father shared a garage and oil distribution business there. Then Walter and Agnes and sons, Kevin and Jack went into the garage business in Edmonton. Since then he has been employed with the Old Dutch Foods, in delivery, in the office in Calgary, and in 1981 was transferred to the position of manager of Old Dutch Wholesale in Red Deer where they now reside.

Kevin was married in 1968 to Marjorie Bray of Edmonton. They have two daughters, Tori and Kelsi. Kevin is employed with Edmonton City Telephones, and resides in Sherwood Park.

Jack was married in 1982 to Connie Ness of Lougheed. He is employed by Edmonton City Surveyors, and lives in Edmonton.

Calo Family History (1954-1964)

by Wanda Imiatkowska Calo

Due to difficulties encountered in London, England to establish his practice, my now ex-husband, Romuald Karol Calo vel Cato decided to look for such a possibility in Canada, once he graduated from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland and finished one year of medical practice with a doctor in London.

I can't say I welcomed the idea to leave England without certain sorrow as it meant for me to leave behind a country which gave us shelter, friends, and family with whom I had one thing in common: The dreadful experiences and hardships of the 1939-45 war in Europe. However the kindnesses shown us by the Canadian soldiers, reassured me.

I was not mistaken in my first impression of Canadians. We were almost overwhelmed with the most sincere welcome, when I arrived with our two sons, Andrew, four at that time and Richard two months, in June, 1954. My husband had been at Holden since January, working for Dr. Freebury in Tofield.



Dr. Calo.

The Holden village had no doctor then. Dr. Siegel had just left, and the people were most anxious to have medical attention without travelling twenty miles to see a doctor.

Thanks to the kind assistance of Messrs. Art Greenwood, John Blake and Steve Komarnisky we were able to purchase a house on 4th Avenue E. and office equipment. My husband was very happy to open a private practice. At first we had lived at the hotel and my husband practised medicine in rented rooms at the theatre. We moved into our home in July 1954 and set up practice there. Mrs. Erickson a nurse at Tofield Hospital gave me useful hints on how to run a doctor's office in Canada.

The vastness of the country was terrifying at times and we were both amazed after the hunger we'd suffered in prisoner of war camps, with the abundance of food in Canada. I was overwhelmed with the party the local people had prepared for us as well as the shower of gifts, on our arrival. Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell made the speech of welcome. It took me some years to adjust myself to the different customs and cuisines of our adopted Fatherland.

My husband and I were waiting impatiently to be legally accepted and become naturalized Canadians. In December, 1959 Anne Mielimaka took me to Vegreville and after I passed the examination I was handed the certificate of Canadian citizenship. After 15 years of being a displaced person with a label D.P. at last I had a country of belonging. My joy was beyond description.

We felt admiration for the pioneers who had suffered hardships in building the province of Alber-



The Calo's: Wanda, Romek, Andrew with Peter in front.

ta. Having been raised in town we knew nothing of how to prepare a field to raise wheat nor how to milk a cow. Therefore I wanted on a small scale to learn farming. All the Mielimakas were patient teachers. Little did we city people know how much work it takes to produce the milk and butter on the store shelves.

My husband thought that since I had been a hospital nurse in the Polish hospital in Peschiera, Italy, where he met me as a student of Bologna University, I should be able to cope as his medical assistant without any additional training in receiving the patients and keeping records. I spent many hours in the basement where the boys would come after school, to share with me their problems and then



Richard Calo.

retreat upstairs to have some lunch by themselves and do their homework. In 1957 to our distress I lost a son in childbirth. Christopher was buried in Holden Cemetery.

My husband who seemed to be popular with his many patients, was always very careful with diagnosis, in more complicated cases seeking advice of another doctor, before sending a patient to have an operation, somehow believing that losing a part of one's body did not always mean a full recovery. He and I are believers in "Preventive Medicine". Ambulance service to transport patients to Tofield Hospital was introduced in 1957.

My husband enjoyed playing cards with the local farmers in his spare time, and later formed a children's choir in the Catholic Church and he played the organ. At Christmas time we both were joining the carol singers and going from house to house singing carols to raise money for the upkeep of the local church. I baked for the bazaars and sold raffle tickets. I was more than happy when offered memberships in some organizations: Royal Purple and Catholic Ladies' Aid, but scared when elected president of the Scout Mothers. In 1962 when a priest asked me to instruct in Catechism knowing my poor pronunciation of English words I accepted with doubts as to whether the children would benefit. Nevertheless I went each week and with certain embarrassment was uttering English words. In 1959 I joined the University of Alberta history class. I knew the history but did not try to write the English essays and examinations. I enjoyed the classes. I tried my feet at square dancing, my hand at bowling, joined a swim class at Vegreville and eventually a bridge club.

I was glad to see our boys, Andrew, Richard and Peter, (born at Tofield Hospital in 1955 — a boom year for babies, and the beginning of running water and inside toilets in Holden), acquiring many friends, and adjusting themselves well in a multi-nation, multi-religion country. They took part in sports and did well at school considering two languages, English and Polish at home and parents with foreign schools and completely different curriculum.

My husband brought over his mother in 1956 and his sister and two nieces in 1958 from Poland. They made their home with us for some time before moving to Quebec. In order to accommodate them he had asked John Laskosky to build on two rooms in 1956 and previously in 1955 he had him erect a garage, and to ease walking, to put in a sidewalk.

We never were taunted by our new friends in Canada, contrary to our experiences in the U.S.A. since coming here. My feelings when my husband announced in 1962 that due to difficulties he was

having at Tofield Hospital getting his patients admitted because of constant shortage of beds, that he had decided to move to the U.S., were ones of despair which as a loyal wife I had to hide for the next two years. My husband passed the necessary exams in Montreal to permit him to practise in the States. The American consulate amazed us with having the papers ready in two months and the short duration of validity. Because of my husband's birthplace — Kiev in Russia we left Canada on the Russian visas, though we had come to Canada on the Polish quota being of Polish parentage. We left in May 1964 leaving Andrew with the Allan family to finish his school year. I was most grateful to my dear friend Pearl Allan that she did not refuse to play a "mother" to our son for a few weeks until he was ready to join us after his exams.

I buried forever my dream of having a house, which I had tried very hard to turn into a home, after many years of having none, because of the war. The place we acquired in the U.S.A. in 1964 I could only call a shelter from the raging hate, religious intolerance and discrimination against our race, including persecution at schools. All these made me retreat from the social life which I had enjoyed so much in Canada, and a time of true exile for me and my boys began. I had to discard my hobby of gardening, as the young Americans would pull out the plants. Even the liking for baking I had to forget due to our minimal wages in this country.

I am truly happy that our neighbors — friends from Alberta find time and money to write letters to me, as it means for me not losing a contact with the happy part which they represent.

We are all living in Massachusetts. I, Wanda Imiatkowska Calo reside in Somerville. Andrew is a librarian in Sharon. Richard, an unemployed musician is in Allston. Peter, in Brookline is a self-employed musician — (Bellvista Group).

Campbell Family **by Marjorie Campbell**

No history of Holden would be complete without mention of the Campbell family.

William and Agnes Campbell and their two sons, Norman and Cecil, came from their home in St. Catharines, Ontario to the Holden district in 1902. They settled on a homestead two and one-half miles west of the present village. This area was then known as Vermillion Valley.

The Campbell home held the first post office in this part of Alberta. From this post office was distributed the mail for all points in this district including what is now Ryley and Viking. There was no train



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Campbell.

service, and mail and food supplies were brought in by William Campbell (my grandfather) from Wetaskiwin by horses and wagon. The Campbell home also housed the first store where many goods were exchanged under the barter system. An often told story by my grandfather was the one about the lady who brought in a tub of butter so heavy as to bear investigation. In the bottom of the tub was a huge rock!

For four years the church services were held in the Campbell home. "Saddleback" preachers had a monthly circuit and as many as seventy people of the district would come to the services. It was an occasion for all settlers to have a social time as well as a



Wm. and Agnes Campbell 50th Anniversary. Norman, Marjorie, William, Agnes, Beth and Bill Campbell.

worship service. Roman Catholic services were also held in this home with the priest hearing confessions from behind a thick grey blanket hung in the corner of the living room. Later Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were instrumental in building the Methodist (now United) church.

My grandfather served the public well in capacity of Justice of the Peace, Registrar of Vital Statistics, store keeper and post master. In 1930, my grandparents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. I well remember the crowds of people who came to wish them well. Grandfather died in December, 1932 and Grandmother lived until May, 1942.

Cecil Campbell spent several years in the district. At one time, he rode the range with the late Lars Ritland. Cecil returned to Toronto to complete his Law degree. He died suddenly in Edmonton in 1914. I believe he was one of the first to be buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Norman remained in the district. In 1919, he married Elizabeth (Beth) Meakes and they continued to live on the farm with his parents. Two children, Marjorie (writer) and William were born there. Norman farmed for a number of years but found it rather difficult as the dust and pollen irritated his asthma. During World War II, my father became the secretary of the Village of Holden, a position he held until his death in 1958. He combined an insurance business with many other duties much like his father before him. Dad always loved to travel and one of their great pleasures was to pack up the car and head out. I think cars were one of Dad's second loves. His first car, which was also one of the first cars in the district, was shipped from the east on a flat car complete with instructions on how to start and drive, but neglecting to say how to stop.

In 1944 Mother and Dad moved off the farm into the house in which Mother still lives. I do not know what to say about Mother as I am sure all who read this history book will have, at some time or other,



Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McAfee, Mr. and Mrs. Dave McAfee, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Campbell, 1928.

come in personal touch with her. I am also sure each one of you will have been influenced in some way by her, whether it be from business contacts (she carried on Dad's business), Sunday School teaching, church work and group meetings, or just by being a good neighbor. At the time of writing, Mother is still in her own home carrying on in her 90th year.

My brother Bill and I took all our schooling in Holden School. One of our teachers, Isabella Briggs Beherns, is now living in Leduc. I went to the University of Alberta, trained to be a teacher and settled in Leduc. I married Kenneth Campbell of that town in 1944 and we have lived here since. We have two sons: William, an Agricultural Management Consultant, who with his wife Pat and three children live in Leduc; and James, a world known Clarinettist who with his wife Carol lives in Toronto.

Bill took his university training in Saskatoon. He has remained with the same company and is now the Canadian president. He and his wife Suzanne live in Oakville, Ontario. They have three sons: John, a chartered accountant living in Vancouver with his wife Angela; Robert, a civil engineer living in Toronto; and Christopher who is attending university.

Carlson, Axel and Walfred

Axel and Walfred Carlson (originally from Goteborg, Sweden) came to the Holden area in 1915 from South Dakota. They settled on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-49-16-W4. Axel came first to purchase the land and in 1916 the brothers built a home and barn.

When the house was completed Axel's wife Minnie and their children, Melvin, Lillian and Florence arrived. Unfortunately when Florence was just nine months old Minnie Carlson died leaving Axel and Walfred with three young children (ages six, three, and nine months) to raise. The task proved too difficult so the baby was put out for adoption. Happily, Melvin, Lillian and Florence have kept in touch with each other through the years.



Walfred and Axel Carlson.

Walfred passed away in 1950 and Axel moved into town in the spring of 1951. During this time he lived in the little white house next to the present Jim Lusk residence. His grandchildren, Bob and Vivian, used to walk across the slough to visit him. On one of these occasions he provided Vivian (three at that time) with her only memory of Grandpa Carlson — that of him putting her damp socks on the heater to dry and burning a hole in them! Axel passed on in the summer of 1953.

Melvin continued to rent the farm to a neighbor, Metro Umrysh for a number of years. In 1967 the land was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Laube. Lillian had earlier sold her half of the old homestead to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Umrysh. (See Lillian McLeod story.)

Melvin married a local girl, Edith Lamb, in 1944. They took up residence in a house purchased from Louis Ritland. They continue to live there at 5124-50 Avenue. Melvin and Edith have three children. Robert (Bob), presently a bank manager in Calgary, is married to Carol Primrose and they have three children Jonathan, Heather and Brian. Vivian a teacher, is married to Lyle Andrusky. (See their story.) Eric lives at home with his parents.



Axel, Melvin holding Vivian, and Walfred with Bobby in front.

Melvin spent over 38 years in the mechanics trade in Holden. During this time he worked for a number of different shops including Joe Chamulke's Garage, Ruskenveld's Machine Dealership, and Sam Black's General Motors Dealership. Melvin remembers when there were close to a dozen garages in Holden. He retired in 1975. He now spends his time reading, working in the yard, and going up town for coffee and the mail in P.O. Box 61, the same box used by his father, Axel Carlson so many years before.

Melvin recalls his school days at Vermillion Valley School in these words:

"Most of our adventures were dodging wild bulls on the open land on the way to school as we had four and a half miles to go morning and night. Winter was the worst with snow banks and drifts that the pony



Carlson homestead, 1928.

could not tackle. Dad used to plow the road with a V plow and four horses so that we could get through the snow to school with the cutter and horse. I attended school from 1922-28 having started when I was ten years old. In Grade nine I had three different teachers, W. E. Murray, J. H. Marsh and S. H. Churchill. The other teachers were Marion Forman, H. A. Mitchell, Clara Peckham, M. E. Fogal and M. E. Lawson who was my favorite. As far as I know all of them have passed on."

Cheremshynski, Harry

Harry Cheremshynski came to Canada from Beela, Ukraine in 1904. Sophie Komarnisky came to Canada in 1902 with her parents, Paul and Cassie. Harry and Sophie were married in 1909. They farmed in the Vermilion area from 1913 to 1918, when they sold their land and moved to a farm which they bought seven and a half miles north of Holden. They had three children, Paul, Annie and Mike. Harry Cheremshynski died in 1937. Sophie (Cheremshynski) Krysa now resides in the nursing home in Vegreville. She is ninety years old.



Harry Cheremshynski family: Paul, Harry, Mike, Ann and Sophie.

Paul married Helen Korpan (see their story). Annie married Peter Urkow and they farmed in the Daysland area. They had a family of thirteen children. Mike married Annie Zowtuk of Holden. They farmed northeast of Holden for many years and had a family of three daughters. They presently live in Edmonton.

Cheremshynski, Paul

Paul, the eldest son of Harry and Sophie Cheremshynski, married Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Korpan in 1934. They farmed across the road from his parents, and recall many hardships during those first years. They retired from farming in 1974 and moved to Vegreville, where they still reside and enjoy their role of "dido and baba". They have a family of five children, Eddie, Sonia, Ronnie, David and Ernest, all of whom are married and have families of their own.

Eddie was born in 1936 and attended Holmdene



Paul Cheremshynski family: Ronnie, David, Sonia, Eddie and Ernest. Seated: Paul and Helen.

and Holden Schools. He graduated from S.A.I.T. in Calgary as an Architectural Technologist and is employed as a designer for Camrec Facilities Consultants Ltd. specializing in recreational facilities. Ed was the designer of the Holden Complex; and is presently designer and project manager of the Vegreville swimming pool. He married Evelyn, daughter of Steve and Mildred Chomiak, of Mundare. They have three children, Rhonda, Roberta and Ramona. Evelyn is employed at the University of Alberta.

Sonia, born in 1938, married Lawrence Prezanowski of Mundare. They farmed in the Mundare area and presently live in Vegreville where Lawrence works as a carpenter as well as farms his land. They have four children, Brenda, Darcy, Michael and Marlene.

Ronald, born in 1940, lived with his parents on the farm until 1957, when he ventured out on his own. He worked at various jobs and then apprenticed as an auto body mechanic. He married Dianne Hayduk of Vegreville in 1965. Ron ventured into several businesses, which included a body shop and car dealerships. In 1973, Ron and Dianne purchased land west of Vegreville where they presently reside and Ron operates a radiator and glass business. They also take great pride in raising Arabian horses. Ron and Dianne have two children, Steven and Ronda. Dianne is vice-principal at St. Martin's school in Vegreville.

David, born in 1944, attended Holden school. He held various garage jobs until he apprenticed and received his auto body mechanics license through N.A.I.T. In 1968, he married Audrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Chupka, of Ryley. They have two children, Shauna and Duane. They currently reside in Edmonton where David is employed.

Ernest was born in 1947 and he also attended Holden School. He decided to remain on the farm and help his father with the farming operation. He spent two winters working in Edmonton, but decided that his heart lay with the land and returned to farming. He presently farms the family farm north of Holden. In 1974, Ernest married Jeanette Kutryk who graduated as an R.N. from the Vegreville Hospital. They have two children, Christy and Jason.

Chermo, Chris

as remembered by Otto Koetke

Chris Chermo came to the Sandstorm district from the northwestern United States in about 1915 or 16, settling on N.W. 21-47-16. In about 1931 he left this area for the Peace River country. He was married and had no children.



Bertha Courtney holding Hazel, Frances, Mary Murphy, Mrs. Chermo, Ursula Murphy, Alice McCarter and Chris Chermo. Sitting: Vera and Everett Courtney and Helen Murphy.

Chetney, Ole Family

Ole Chetney was born at Tiller-Trondheim in 1878. At the age of seventeen, he immigrated to the United States, going to his uncle in Wisconsin. He worked in various lumber camps throughout the U.S.A., going as far as the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. He also found time to go to school in order to get an education in the U.S.A. His first visit to Canada was in 1898. In 1903 in the company of two Swedes, he walked from Wisconsin to Calgary. There they made skis and skied the rest of the way to Edmonton.



Ole Chetney.



Karen Chetney.

Ole worked with the survey crew that surveyed the railroad through Holden. He decided to homestead in the Holden area after having looked over other locations in Alberta.

On a return visit to Norway, he met his future wife, Karen Wefald. Karen was born at Naslandvatn, Norway in 1891. After completing elementary school, she went on to train in needlecraft and household economics. Karen worked in Oslo for some time. In 1918 she came to Holden and married Ole Chetney. They were married in Edmonton.

The Chetneys farmed four miles south of Holden on Section 4-49-16 until 1944, when they moved to Ground Birch to a farm that Ole had proved up in 1935.

Ole passed away in 1953. Karen remained at Ground Birch until 1962, when she moved to the White Rock area in B.C. She passed away in 1976.

There were six children born to the Ole Chetney's, Knut, Ruth, Margrethe, Rolf, Helen and Astrid. They attended Vermillion Valley School.

In 1912 Ole Chetney, Knud Fodness and P. A. Erickson formed a threshing company. They bought a Titan Tractor and Taylor Separator for the princely sum of \$1,420.00. They threshed for several years,

later Bernt and Olaf Chetney, Ed Logan and Eric Erickson joined the company.

The family of Ole Chetney:

Ruth trained as a hairdresser and worked in that profession for thirty three years. She is married to Norman Gerdes of Edmonton. Norman and Ruth have retired to North Vancouver, and they have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Margrethe graduated from Holden High School with the class of '41. She served with the R.C.A.F. (W.D.). She is married to John Kabesh formerly of Viking. John and Margrethe live in New Westminster, B.C. They have four sons and two grandchildren.

Rolf graduated from Holden High School. He joined the Air Force and trained as an Observer. Rolf was shot down on a bombing mission over Stuttgart in 1944. He is buried in the British Commonwealth Military Cemetery at Durnbach, West Germany.

Helen attended Holden High and she served with the R.C.A.F. (W.D.). She is married to Peter Griffiths of Victoria. Peter and Helen live in New Westminster, B.C., and have five children, two sons and three daughters.

Astrid attended Holden High. She is married to Dudley Brand of Los Angeles, California. The Brands live in San Juan Capistrano, California, and they have two sons.

Knut attended school at Vermillion Valley and Holden. He served with the R.C.A.F. during W.W. II. After the war, he married Mildred Hides and lived in Calgary where he worked in an auto body garage. Later they moved to Vancouver where Knut became employed with C.P. Air. He is now supervisor of quality control. Knut and Mildred have five daughters.

Chomik, Michael and Mary

Mike Chomik was born in the Polska district south of Holden in 1907, the son of Alexander and Suzanna (nee Stefanizyn). Mike's parents homesteaded about six miles south and one mile east of Holden. Later they moved south of Bruce to the Kopernick area. They raised ten children; John, Mike, Annie, Pete, Joe, Tony, Nick, Stanley, Mable and Nellie.

Mike's father came from Austria and his mother from Poland. They were married in Europe before coming to Canada.

Mike along with his brothers and sisters attended Rich School. As a young man he worked on a threshing crew at Unity, Saskatchewan, and also for the C.N.R. As time passed, Mike invested his earnings in a quarter of land (NE-32-48-14) located four miles



Mike Chomic, 1935.

east and one mile south of Holden. In later years he acquired another 80 acres.

In 1931, Mike married Mary Hawrylzn, who was born in Austria in 1906. Her family came to Canada in the 1920's and her father Mike Hawrylzn farmed six miles northeast of Holden. Mary had three sisters, Annie, Katie and Nancy.

Mary was a very hard worker and helped a lot with the farm work. She enjoyed gardening and sewing when she had time in the evenings.

In 1952, Mike and Mary had a very unfortunate and unforgettable experience, that of having their new home burn down. This happened at Christmas time and was a tragic time in their lives. However the neighbors were all very good to help out and life does go on.

Mary and Mike had two children: Alvin born in 1933 and Nellie in 1936.

Alvin, married Carol Sizer of Holden in 1966. They have three children: Cindy, Craig and Penelope. (see A. M. Sizer story).

Nellie, married Allen Warwa from Tofield, in 1956. They moved to Edmonton where Nellie worked at Acme Novelty and the Hudson's Bay Co. They had one daughter Laurie.

Mike farmed for twenty two years with a 1928 model Twin City tractor, which only had a hand crank to start it. He drove a 1928 Willis Whippet car. His favorite hobby, which was also a necessity of life,

was hunting. Whether for ducks, geese, prairie chickens, pheasants or partridges, he was always successful in bringing home something. Once he had a fantastic shoot and bagged thirty ducks in one hour. He also used to trap weasels and muskrats for their pelts. Mike liked to work with horses, and he farmed with them for many years. He used to break his own horses and even tried his luck at the Bruce Stampede a few times.

In August of 1975 Mike and Mary sold the farm and retired to Holden, residing at 5103-50 Ave., next to Henry Hanson's residence. They were quite content in their retirement as they both loved to putter around in the garden. Mike spent his spare time building a garage at the back of the property. He also liked to go down to Alvin's shop and sweep up for him and visit with the customers.

Mike passed away of a heart attack in 1981, after which Mary moved into the Holden Lodge.

Mike and Mary have four grandchildren and one great grandchild of whom they were very proud just as we are proud of such pioneers of the past.

Chorney, Anton and Anastasia

Anton Chorney was born in Austria to parents of farming background. He married Anastasia Dolaney and this marriage was blessed with three children, Tillie, Steve and Jessie.

In the early 1900's they immigrated to Canada and took a homestead south of Holden (S.E.20-47-16-W4), presently owned by Ernie Koetke. After approximately nine years, due to flooding and no drainage on their land, the Chorneys ventured south, to a location eight miles north of Daysland and took possession of a quarter of land. They remained in this area until their passing in the 1930's.

Their oldest daughter was married to Peter Shihinski of Daysland. Both are deceased. Jessie married Steve Bilyk of Daysland. She passed away in 1980. Steve remained a bachelor and passed away in 1982.

Christensen, Hans Emil

Hans was the only child of Thomas and Sorine Christensen, born at Holden in February, 1916. He attended Holden School, helped around the farm and had part time work with Fred Koetke and also worked at a garage owned by Joe Kallal. After his father's death in 1935 he decided that farming was not for him, so he sold the farm and he and his mother, accompanied by her friend and companion, Margaret Peterson, moved to Tofield. Here he again worked for the Kallals. In 1942 he enlisted in the RCAF and

trained in the Radar division at McMaster University in Hamilton. In December 1942 he was united in marriage to Winnie Worton of Tofield. He returned east and was later joined by Winnie at Clinton, Ont. where he received his commission. He was sent overseas and spent a year and a half in England. He later worked for Watson's and became a shareholder. He trained and qualified for his Master's Electrician certificate. In 1977 he sold his interest in Watson's and has been operating his own business ever since. He is an active community worker, and serves on the town council.

Hans and Winnie have three children, Sonja, who is with the Royal Bank in Calgary, June, who teaches at Gibbons, and Tom who is practicing medicine in Saanichton, B.C.

Christensen, Hans Jorgen and Family Excerpts from the Memoirs of Christen Anders Christensen

My father, Hans Jorgen Christensen, was born in Denmark in 1853. He and his wife, Kirstine, had eight children, Thomas, Helene, Christen, Anna, Elna, Hansine, Magnus, and Mary, who died in her crib at an early age. Before we immigrated to this country, Father was the renter of a large estate, Vaabensholm, with a fine house and buildings, and a lot of hired help, both in the field and in the house. We had a splendid life, with many social gatherings, including a harvest festival or "Hostgilde", when our crops were taken off. But Father wanted to own his land, and had in his mind for a long time to go to America.

Thomas was sent first, to Wisconsin. My cousin Christian Flohr and I followed him, in March, 1903, and luckily found jobs. Early in the summer Father, now fifty years old, arrived with the family. He did not like Wisconsin, and when Thomas, newly returned from Alberta, urged him to take up the homestead adjacent to his claim, Father decided to do so. Helen, Anna and I stayed behind to earn some money.

When the family reached Wetaskiwin, they were met by a Dane, Hans Albertsen. They stayed at Albertsen's place all summer, while Father and Thomas traveled the two miles east across the creek to Father's homestead, S.W. ¼ 28-49-16, to break a few acres, build a hay barn, and put up a shanty to live in during the winter. In the spring, with the help of two Danish lads, Paul Nielsen and Nels Petersen, they erected the first frame house in the district, using home-sawed lumber, and siding hauled from Wetaskiwin. They also constructed a dugout barn, with a loft of poles and hay.

Sister Anna and I arrived that summer from

Wisconsin, by immigration train. We entered Canada at Portal, and all across the prairies noted deep buffalo furrows running north and south, with white skulls lying beside them. When we got to Red Deer, in every door a bell was ringing vigorously, inviting passengers to come and buy their dinner. Anna and I were of course afraid to leave the train. I have no recollection of what we ate on the journey. Father, be he praised, was there to meet us in Wetaskiwin. We were glad to reach the farm, and to be re-united with the family.

Conditions in those days were somewhat primitive. We navigated the prairies in summer in a cutter with dry poplars for runners, skimming along swiftly over the "prairie wool". In winter, with snow on the ground, when Tommy and Petersen went to Wetaskiwin for supplies, their conveyance was a two-wheeled cart. It could be heard coming for miles. Water was always a problem. We had no luck with wells. A waterhole had to be cut in a frozen slough in winter, and cattle driven to it. Barrels on a wooden "stone-boat" were used to haul water home all year around.

The work on the farm was hard, and Father bore the brunt of it. He bought two 3-year old steers, made harness for them, and broke them to do field work. That first summer I was introduced to the walking plow in the most convincing way. In the fall, we took a bunch of cattle on shares from Fred Christiansen, and built a corral beside the haystack. Father was a good judge of cattle, and we had more luck with them than with grain. Wheat got infected with smut, and we did not know enough to treat the seed. We did have some oats to sell, which Father hauled to Vegreville, some 25 miles away. In winter, most of the farmers round about traveled several in a company. Many of the drivers ran behind their outfits to keep warm but Father did not do this. He stuck to his guns and remained seated. By this time, of course, we knew most of our neighbors, very fine people.

Money was so scarce. We needed everything, and bought farm implements from Kjosness at Martins, where we could get credit. Tommy went fishing on Beaver Lake in winter, and peddled the fish around to earn a few dollars. Magnus and I trapped muskrats, then worth 7¢ a pelt. At one time, Mother's butter-making made her the most important breadwinner. Father and Tommy made the 80-mile trip to Edmonton to sell it to cafes and hotels. We were never short of food. There was always good Danish brown bread, butter, cream, and eggs, and Mother had a skilful way of preparing the wild game I shot with the single-barreled repeater Winchester I had brought from Wisconsin.

It must have been the winter of 1905 that the

Pleasant Ridge School was started. I will never forget the first morning of school, with its snow and frost. We all went, except Tommy. Father drove us, stopping now and then to set a trap for a muskrat. Pupils came great distances, from all directions. We were a motley crew as we gathered around the big heater. The Albertsen boys, almost grown, had never been to school. The teacher, very able, was Miss Lottie Brisbin, later Mrs. Al. Stewart. I stayed in school five months, and got some knowledge of Canadian history, geography, and literature. The Alexandra Readers, full of good stories and poems, instilled in me a love of reading that has lasted all my life.

Helen arrived from Minnesota in August, 1907. Anna, at this time, was working for Mrs. John Story, and Elna was going to high school in Edmonton, so Helen stayed home to give Mother a hand. In the spring of that year, construction on the Grand Trunk Railway just south of our place had started, the track being graded up in the good old way, with horses and a scraper or "slip". We undertook to supply milk, cream, and butter to the camp near Poe, and also fresh meat. The price, as I recall, was 7¢ a pound. Butchering was my job, and I hated it.

After this busy time was over, Helen went to work in Edmonton, and married Neal Crimmin in 1909. Sister Anna was also working in the city, and Elna was going to Normal School in Calgary. Sinne was thus the only girl at home, and was quite the belle of the countryside. She always kept a clean white apron on a hook in the kitchen, in case an admirer came to call. We now had an organ, and young people seemed to like to gather at our house. Ethel Brownridge, whose father ran the elevator at Poe, came over often to play the organ, and I can still hear the gang singing "Waltz me around again, Willie, don't let my feet touch the ground". Also at that time, we took part in things going on in Holden, the new town that sprang up just three miles away, after the railway was built.

The summer of 1908 was cold and wet, and I was feeling unwell. My illness was diagnosed as tuberculosis, in the incipient stage. Father had a sunny room built for me at the east end of the house, where I could be isolated from the rest of the family, and have plenty of quiet and rest. With a cough medicine prescribed by Dr. Farrell, and Mother's good care and food, in a year or so I was miraculously better.

When I was up and about, Tommy went to Denmark to marry his childhood sweetheart, Sorine Lindbeck, and on their return built a fine house on his homestead. We then went about clearing his land and my own, neighboring his. We blew ourselves up a couple of times with stumping powder, but escaped unhurt.



Hans Christensen on Prince about 1926.

Now, only Sinne, Magnus and I were living at home, as Elna had married Fred Parsons, and was settled in Edmonton. Magnus was the cowboy of the family, and liked nothing better than to don his "chaps" and be off on the range.

World War I, though a terrible event, did not affect us in any way. In 1918, Anna married Anton Nielsen, who had a large farm at Standard. Also that year, Father paid out \$500 for our first car, a Ford '18 touring model, that served us well.

Early in 1919, Mother caught cold, and it turned into pneumonia. We did not know what to do for her, and she died on April 9. A sad blow for us all. Sinne was married later that year to Kenneth McLennan, and not long afterwards Elna came home to keep house, with her children, Gladys, Harold, Norman, Anna and Elsie. A lively crew.

There were by this time quite a few Danish settlers in the area, and it was arranged for Pastor Peter Rasmussen at Wayne to come up periodically to conduct Danish church services. They were held in the various homes, and were much appreciated.

Since the crops froze in 1918, and the summer of 1919 was very dry, with an early frost, feed was very scarce that fall, and had to be brought in. We had a carload of bundles shipped from Standard, and sold them for 10¢ a piece. Someone else tried the same thing, but the bundles were stolen while the car stood overnight on the siding. It was a tough winter. The horses on some farms were eating the mangers, 'twas said.

During the 1920's we acquired more land, and also increased the size of our cattle herd, as we now had winter shelters, and a good pump and feed mill. Fortunately, two of Christian Flohr's sons, Henning and Carl, arrived from Denmark to give us a hand.



Chris Christensen about 1930.

About the same time, Norman Armstrong helped us install a Delco plant, which gave welcome illumination to the farm. In 1927, we bought the McAfee place in Holden, along with a lot of land on the west end. The house was rented to the merchant Myer Black, a good arrangement. I might add that our land deals were handled in fine style by the new lawyer in town, Tom White, a great asset to the community.

Magnus married Anna Nelsen in 1928, and went to live on the east farm, but we still shared farming operations.

During the "dirty thirties" there were indeed dust storms, but still good crops, unless they were ruined by hail. Elna's children by this time were beginning to leave home to pursue avocations, and in 1932, Gladys was killed by electric shock in Calgary. When the depression started, Brother Tommy and his wife, be they commended, did much to help other families. Tommy became ill at an early age, and died in 1935. A few weeks later, Father suffered a stroke while hoeing in Magnus' garden, and passed away early in 1936. His life, both here and in Denmark, was singular, and much to be admired.

After Father's death, I felt the need of a change, so took a trip to Europe in 1937. I had a fine time in Denmark, France, and England, and on my return, was able to plunge into work again. But after World War II was well over, I rented out the farm, and Elna and I moved into Holden. The land was later sold to



Christensen family gathering at Holden, 1955.

Maurice Ruskenveld but it now belongs to the Hutterite Colony. The buildings are forlorn and empty, and are falling into ruin, I am sorry to say.

Elna and I enjoyed the church and social activities, and I found good use for my camera. I went to Europe again in 1949, finding it most devastated by the war. In the 1950's I went too heavily into oil speculation, and learned my lesson. Helen died in 1962, and Anna in 1964. At about this time, Elna became ill, and in due course entered an auxiliary hospital in Edmonton. I carried on at home, and to fill in the time, in 1967 commenced to write my memoirs. One copy is now in the Danes World-Wide Archives in Denmark, and another in the Provincial Archives in Edmonton.

Elna died in 1970, and Magnus in 1972. Now, in this year, 1973, only Sinne and I are left, and perhaps for us, too, the time is running out. . .

Note — Chris had a stroke in the fall of 1973, and died in the nursing home at Viking on May 13, 1976, at the age of 89. Sinne passed away in 1978.

Christensen, Magnus Family

Magnus Christensen moved from his home on the Hans Christensen farm N.W. of Holden to the S½-28-49-15 in 1926. This was situated on the Holden-Vegreville road five and a half miles N.E. of Holden.

In 1928 he married Anna Nelson of Bawlf. They remained on this farm until his death in 1972. Anna then moved to the nursing home in Viking where she remained until her death in 1976. They both loved the farm life and remained active on it until they were in their seventies. They both were avid gardeners. Their vegetable garden and Anna's flower beds took up much of their summer time in their later years.

The family remembers the different stages of farming. They remember going from horses to their



Christensen children: Gordon, Edward, Allan, June, Harvey in front.

first tractor, a steel wheeled Twin City. They also remember the depression and hard times. Throughout the years there were many good times and many failures. There were two very severe hailstorms which swept the district in 1945 and 1947. The crops were completely destroyed.

Magnus was a person who enjoyed life and was not afraid to take risks. His favorite saying was: "Rather lose a dollar than let a deal stand still."

Three of the six children remain in the district.

Edward, with his wife Margaret reside on the home farm. They have three children, Tara, Alison and Trenton.



Magnus Christensen family. Harvey, Edward, Gordon, Allan, Orville. Seated: Magnus with Marlene, Anna, Elsie holding Wayne, June is missing.

Gordon farms also. He too lives on the home farm.

Allan farms N.E. of Holden. He is married to Anne and they have two children, Brent and Noreen.

Orville, an accountant is married to Elsie and they live in Calgary. They have two children, Marleen and Wayne.

Harvey, the youngest son lives in Toronto and is a librarian at the University of Toronto.

June is married to Rein and they have recently moved from Toronto to Holland. They have three children, Pat, Deborah and Rick.

The Christensen children all took their schooling including grade nine, at Longridge School.

June and Harvey completed their high school in Holden. They went on to University and College.

Magnus and Anna have five great grandchildren. Tyler, Brent's son is the first of this generation bearing the Christensen name.

Christensen, Thomas

Early in the 1900's was the beginning of an exciting adventure for Thomas Christensen, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Christensen. In his early 20's he decided to leave his home in Denmark and cross the ocean to Wisconsin, U.S.A. After working there for three years, he again got the wanderlust, and set off to apply for a homestead in Sunny Alberta. As all his friends and neighbors would agree, he was an honest and sincere person, but when you are young and broke, sometimes you have to travel by your wits, and this he did. Many times he was conveniently in the washroom when the conductor collected the tickets. He arranged for a homestead near Holden, the

SE¼ 28-49-16 W4. During this time his parents, brothers and sisters arrived in Wisconsin. So Tommy made the trip back and persuaded them to come to Alberta also. They had, by this time accumulated furniture, cattle, and a couple of horses. They packed up their possessions and landed in Wetaskiwin, the nearest station to Holden. They were met by Hans Albertson who was to guide them to their destination. Tommy was delegated to herd the cattle on foot. Between the mosquitoes and dense brush, it was no easy task and at one point he sat down to rest and fell asleep. When he awoke the cattle were gone and it took days to round them up again.

The years 1903-1910 were spent improving the land and building. They were hard years and the money was scarce. In 1910 Thomas journeyed back to Denmark and brought back a bride, Sorine Hansen. Her sister, Martha came with her and later married Anton Christoffersen. Life was hard for Tommy and Sorine who for the first while lived in a granary. Sorine told many tales of how she scrubbed, white-washed, and had a continual battle with the little creatures that attack you in bed. However Tommy soon built a frame house and it was one of the best kept and most attractive homes in the district. The formal flower beds, well kept walks and general appearance were a credit to them. Sorine was an



Thomas and Sorine Christensen, ?, ?, Chris Damsgard — 1914.



Jack Malezko, Thomas Christensen, Hans Christensen, Sorine Christensen and Emma Lindbeck — 1924.

excellent housekeeper as well as a kind and generous person. Many families were recipients of goodies prepared in her kitchen. There was much entertaining done on the weekends in their home. Sorine's mother and father came from Denmark, spending part of their time with Sorine's home and part with Sorine's sister, Martha Christoffersen. Unfortunately their mother was found to have cancer and did not survive long. After his wife's death the father went back to Denmark.

The first Danish church service was held at the Tommy Christensen home. Pastor Rasmusson travelled from Wayne, Alberta to give the message. It was a full day, the service, then dinner for all, then singing and visiting until time to go home. These services were held two or three times during the summer and were held at different homes.

In 1916, a son, Hans was born to Sorine and Thomas. During his boyhood he attended the Holden school and helped on the farm.

In those days all the farming was done with horses. Tommy broke his land by an eight-horse tandem. They milked purebred Holstein cows by hand, sold cream and butter. In fact the Christensen butter was well known all around the Holden district each pound was wrapped in a special wrapper with the Christensen name printed on it. Every Friday was butter day and the people watched for Tommy to deliver it. Even the children knew the butter man with his horse and buggy. The high price of 35¢ per pound was paid. Not having any refrigeration, a cement dugout was made with a trap door, which kept the butter and cream cold and fresh. The butter was churned in a barrel churn. The salting and working was done on a wood table with a crank and paddle, followed by a hand operated one pound print, to size and shape each pound. One to two hundred pounds were produced each week in the 30's.

There was a 10-acre slough which provided a place for boating in summer and skating in the winter. These activities were enjoyed by Hans and his cousins the Parson family. Muskrats were plentiful there also and each hide brought seven cents. A powerful 14-foot diameter windmill was the only power source. It pumped the water and ground feed for sixteen to twenty cows, a few steers and the horses. The windmill had a forty foot wooden tower. The tower rotted at the base and blew over one time and had to be replaced. The water well, two hundred feet deep, was salt water, good for the cattle and cooking, but not for drinking. Drinking water was hauled from Chris Christensen's farm, half a mile away.

During the thirties a trench silo was made and silage fed to the cattle. Some was oat greenfeed and for years field corn and sunflowers were used. These were cut up in a cutter box driven by a tractor. The silage was compressed by riding a horse in the silo all day to get rid of air pockets.

With a mortgage from Canada Permanent, Tommy bought a herd of cows in 1927, but bad luck struck and several died from Bang's disease. Also the hungry thirties made payments on the 8% mortgage hard to pay. After Tommy's death in 1935, his wife Sorine and son Hans carried on until 1939. By this time the mortgage had doubled to \$4000. They decided to leave the farm and the new owner assumed the mortgage. Word has it that it was not paid off till the 1950's. In those days when you took out a short time loan for ninety days, you asked for \$200 and received \$196. The interest was taken in advance and if not paid off in time you paid the principal plus the interest.

Sorine, her friend and companion, Margaret Peterson, and Hans, moved to Tofield where Hans worked for the garage owned by the Kallals. When Hans enlisted in 1942, he built a small home for his Mother and Margaret in Poe so they could be close to relatives. After his return from overseas she again moved to Tofield, where she passed away in June 1969. She was buried in the family plot in the Holden cemetery. Her friend and companion, Margaret, is residing at the Tofield Lodge.

Christian, George (Yorko)

George was born to Joseph and Anna Christian in 1889 in the village (Silo) of Cljyn, municipality (povet) of Hushatian.

As a boy, George tended the cattle and horses in a community pasture. In his teenage years he worked in the local stone quarry until his early twenties when he worked for three years on a dairy farm in Germany.

When George had saved enough money, in 1913, he immigrated to Canada. Upon his arrival in Canada he was employed on the extra gang for the C.P.R. in the Fort William (Thunder Bay) area for one year.

In 1914 George decided to move west to Alberta to live with his older brother Kost (Gus) Chrystian and his family (see their story).



George and Pauline Christian, Paul, John, Bill, Steve and Metro, 1926.

His first years in the west were spent working for two priests, a Polish, Roman Catholic priest and a Ukrainian Greek Catholic priest, in Saskatchewan and then in Round Hill, Alberta. While working in Saskatchewan he learned to drive a Model T Ford. He then returned to Alberta where he worked for some local farmers in the area where his brother lived.

Pauline Komarnisky, daughter of Paul and Exania of Borschiw, became George's wife in 1918. Pauline was born in 1903 in Borschiw where she resided until her marriage to George.

George and Pauline farmed rented land in different locations in the Holden district until 1927 when they bought a quarter section of land from the Hudson Bay Land Company S.E.-17-48-15. A two room house was built and in 1929 the family moved into their new home.

In 1937 George bought his second quarter section of land SE-9-48-15, from the C.P.R., previously owned by Bill Dorin. The Fairview School was situated on this quarter of land. The final section of land was purchased in 1944 S.E.-16-48-15, previously owned by Mosier and now owned and farmed by Steve Christian.

George bought his first car in 1935, a 1926 model T-Ford for \$35 and two roosters.



Mary Christian.

Over the years nine children were born to George and Pauline.

Paul married Ellen Pedersen, they have eight children. Henning, Sylvia, Sonja, Ardis, Amy, Harvey, Dennis and Marie and eleven grandchildren. They reside at Bruce, Alberta.

John, married Florence O'Toole, and they had six children (see John Christian history).

Bill passed away in 1938 at the age of sixteen.

Steve (see his story).

Metro, married Ann Diodati, they had five children (see their story).

Ann, married William (Bill) Melnychuk. They have three children; David, Gary and Diane and three grandchildren. They reside on a farm at Redwater, Alberta.

Harry passed away in 1982 (see his story).

Margaret married Emmanuel (Pat) Mella. They have four children; Francis, Veronica, Gail and Christopher and they reside at Stony Plain.

Mary married John Stokowski, they have eight children and three grandchildren (see John Stokowski history).

All children attended the Fairview School. The family were members of the St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, South Holden.

In 1959 George and Pauline decided to retire from farming and bought a house in Holden. The farm went to their sons Steve and Harry. The home quarter section 17-48-15 and quarter section 9-48-15 went to

Harry, while the third quarter section 16-48-15 went to Steve.

George passed away in 1964, Pauline is still residing in Holden in their home.

Christian, Harry

Harry was born in 1930 to George and Pauline Christian. He attended Fairview School and upon completion he farmed with his father and his brother Steve.

In 1959, when Harry's parents moved to Holden, Harry took over the family farm. In 1968 he bought a half section of land W-17-48-15 from Paul Cwihula and in 1974 he bought another quarter section SW-20-48-15 from Peter Komarnisky, giving Harry a total of one and a quarter sections of land.



Harry Christian, emcee at a party.

Harry was extremely active in the community, serving with the United Farmers, Unifarm and the Holden District Chamber of Commerce for which he was secretary-treasurer for two years. He was also an honorary member of the Holden Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and was a member of the Bruce Stampede Association.

Harry served as president for the 60th anniversary of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, South Holden and for many years was the church secretary. He also was president of the board of Dr. Cairn's School for handicapped children in Vegreville.

As a member of the Vegreville Council of the Knights of Columbus, Harry served on the Holden Sub-Council as presiding Knight, bursar and trustee. He was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus in Camrose for five years. In addition, Harry assisted with the organization and establishment of religious

instruction in public schools in both Holden and Bruce and participated as an instructor.

Political involvement on the provincial level also kept Harry busy, as did serving on the board of directors of the Iron Creek Gas Corporation.

Harry passed away in 1982.

Christian, John

by Florence Christian

John, was born in 1926 the second son of George and Pauline Christian. He grew up on the farm and went to Fairview School. In the spring of 1942 he enlisted in the army where he served until 1945. After his discharge, he went to work in Edmonton. He also worked for different farmers. In 1948 he got his own farm east of Holden.

In 1949 he married Florence O'Toole and they



Florence and John Christian.



Allan, Tim, Florence, John, Brenda, Susan, Russell. Sandra is missing.

had a family of six. Sandra, married Ben Borzash, they have two children and reside in Camrose. The others are Timothy, Brenda, Allen, Russell, and Susanna, who married Steven Boyle. They have two children and reside in Edmonton.

In the spring of 1960 they moved to Wainwright where John worked at the army camp until May of 1977 when he took sick and passed away in June of the same year. The family still makes their home in Wainwright.

Christian, Metro

I was born in the Holden area in 1925 to George and Pauline Christian.

I attended Fairview School until 1941. After leaving school I worked on my father's farm until the



Metro and Ann Christian.

spring of 1949. At that time I decided to try my luck in the oil fields. So Mike Cwihula and I left for Redwater, Alberta, where I worked on the pipeline.



George, Anna Marie and Laura Christian.

Then I went east and worked on the pipeline in Montreal, Quebec and Winnipeg, Manitoba. I also worked as an iron worker, building oil refineries and chemical plants at Sarnia, Ontario. In 1953 I went to Toronto, into a steel plate fabrication shop located in Oakville, Ontario. There I worked as a boilermaker and the last ten years as a supervisor.

At present I am on the farm of my late brother Harry, who passed away in 1982. The farm originally was my father's.

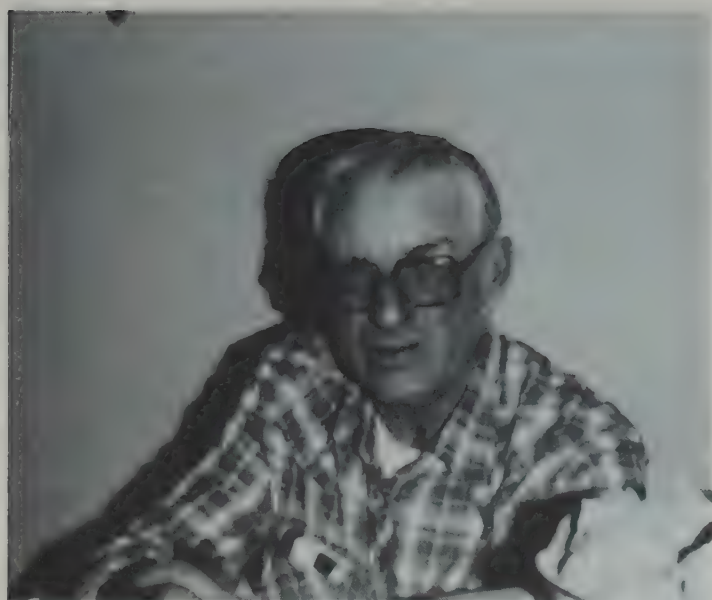


Clifford, Margaret, Alan and Scott Beauchamp.

In 1958 I married Ann Diodati (Beauchamp) daughter of Nicodemo and Ann Diodati of Montreal. We had five children. Clifford Beauchamp (stepson) is married to Margaret Hogarth and they have two boys, Alan and Scott. Ronald Beauchamp (stepson) passed away in 1966 at age of 19. Anna-Marie, George and Laura live in Mississauga, Ontario.

Christian, Steve

I was born in 1924 to George and Pauline Christian. I attended Fairview School from 1931 to 1939. When I finished school I helped Dad with his farming until 1951, then I rented land and started farming for myself. In 1957 I bought SW-16-48-15 which is where I live. This quarter of land was first farmed by Carl Tinholm in 1930, when it was taken over by Nels Jensen, and he farmed it until 1941. Then Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lomness lived there until 1951, when I took it over. I also farm two more quarters NW-9-48-15 and SE-16-48-15. I have lived in the Holden area all my life.



Steve Christian.

Christianson, Donald Jackson by Erna Christianson

Don's parents were Edward and Laura Christianson. His wife, Erna's parents were Frederick and Magdalena Hoffman.

Don and Erna Christianson started farming in 1941, renting the Peterson farm for two years. All the field work was done with horses. They liked farming and it was the best place to make a living in those days.



Donald Christianson, 1941.

Late in 1941 Don bought the first Model S. tractor on rubber wheels from J. I. Case Company. The cost of the tractor was \$616.50. The tractor was in use for many hours a day as Don helped his dad Ed on his land to pay off the mortgage that year.

In 1944 Don bought a farm from John Roseth, E½-6-50-15 north of Holden.

Their three children; Barry, Donald Dale and Sharlene grew up on the farm, and went to Holden school, five miles away, on the school bus.

Don and Erna farmed there for the next twenty four years. In 1968 they sold the farm and moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Donald passed away in 1980.

Barry and Betty Christianson and two sons Derek and Mark, live at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, where Barry works for Alberta Government Telephones.

Dale and Laurie Christianson and two children Brenda and Darren, live at Ardrossan, Alberta. Dale is an electrician.

Sharlene (Christianson) Bourassa has one daughter, Mandy Nicole. They reside in Vernon, B.C.

Christianson, Edward, John

Edward (Ed) was born in Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1879 to Frederick and Elvina Christianson. He had three sisters, Denorah, Olga and Lilly. Early in his life the family moved to South Dakota to farm for a number of years.

Ed married Anna Olson of South Dakota and in 1902 the Christiansons moved to Alberta and settled

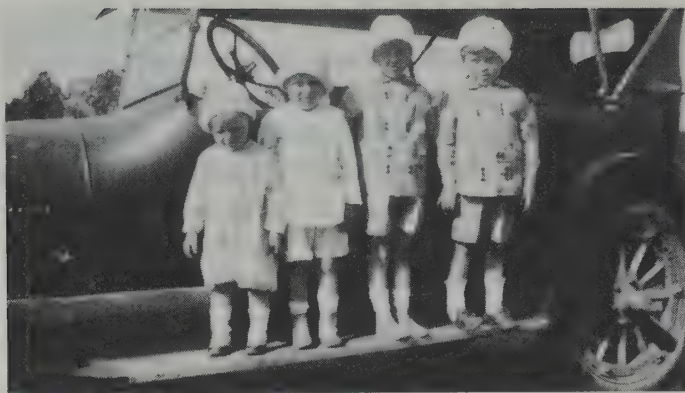


Edward and Laura Christiansen in 1914.

in the Martins district. They bought land in several locations around Holden and Martins. Ed and Anna settled on N.W.¼-32-49-15. To this family three children were born. Two died in infancy. Arnold farmed with his dad for a number of years before he moved to Seattle where he worked on tugboats. In 1926 he was accidentally drowned.

Anna passed away in 1910. Ed married Laura Anderson in 1914. To this family four sons and one daughter were born: Wilfred, Ross, Donald and James. The daughter died in infancy.

In 1944 Ed and Laura retired from the farm and moved to Holden. Ed passed away in 1947 at the age of 68. Laura continued to live in Holden until 1967 when she moved to Bethany Home in Camrose



Ross, Wilfred, Donald and James Christianson in 1921.



Edward and Laura Christianson and Lena Jones — 1937.

where she lived until 1978 when she passed away at the age of 94.

Wilfred married Olive Gwilliam from Hamilton, Ontario. They farmed in the Holden district for a number of years, then retired and moved to Kelowna, B.C. They had one son Dwayne who married Elaine Balog from Holden. They have two children, and make their home in Edmonton.

Ross married Stena Olson of Holden. He farmed with his dad for a few years, then went into plumbing and steam fitting at which he worked for the Alberta Government for many years. In 1975 he retired to Vernon B.C. where they make their home. They have



Laura Christianson on her 90th birthday.

two children Roger and Sandra. Roger lives in Calgary and Sandra is married and lives in Edmonton.

Donald married Erna Hoffman. See Donald Christianson story.

James married Beatrice Cadger. See James Christianson story.

Christianson, Fred

Frederick Christianson (1848-1919) and his wife, the former Elvina Larson (1853-1936) were both born in Norway. They both came from the U.S. to the Holden area and lived on a farm in the Adams district for some years. They then moved to Holden and lived in the house across the street from the school later occupied by the Black family.

They had five children: Dinora (1877-1942) was married to John Wohl. Edward (1879-1947) married Annie Olson. After Annie's death he married Laura



Frederick and Elvina Christianson and friends in their democrat.

Anderson. Oscar born in 1882 died in 1889. Olga, (1889-1974) was married to Oscar Burnstad. Lilly, who was unmarried was born in 1891 and died in 1962.

Lilly and her mother lived in a small house which was later owned by George Albrecht. She spent the last years of her life in the Bethany Home in Camrose.

Christianson, James and Beatrice

Beatrice was born in Holden in 1924 the only daughter of James and Annabelle Cadger. Educated in Holden, she took part in musical festivals that were held in schools at that time. Later she was employed at the telephone office, the creamery and the Holden Health Unit.

In 1944, she was married to James Christianson, youngest son of Edward and Laura of Holden. Jim had been educated in Marconi, Longridge and Holden Schools. Jim and his brother Wilfred farmed in partnership for several years.



James Christianson family — Vernice, James, Beatrice, Dennis. Front Row: Miles and Gregory.

In 1950 James and Beatrice bought a half a section of land (W $\frac{1}{2}$ -19-49-15) from James Cadger, where the Walter Pobrans now live. They farmed there from 1950 to 1966, when they sold their farm and moved to Camrose, where they now reside. James was employed with Alberta Government Services at Rosehaven and retired in 1980. Jim and Beatrice have four children. Dennis, Vernice, Miles and Gregory.

Dennis was born in 1944. He graduated from Holden School, attended Camrose College and the U. of A. where he received a B. Ed. degree. He was

employed at Round Hill, Rosalind and Sedgewick. In 1966 Dennis married Linda Roth of Heisler, who also has a B. Ed. degree. They are both employed as teachers in Calgary, where they now live, and have two children, Tracy and Troy.

Vernice was born in 1950. She was educated in Holden School to grade 10, then graduated from Camrose Composite High. She was employed in Camrose for a short time, then studied at N.A.I.T. and the U. of A. in Edmonton, where in 1969 she married Donald Sagert of Bruce. Donald is an auto body mechanic. They reside on an acreage east of Sherwood Park. Vernice and Don have two sons, Shaune and Byron, who attend Ardrossan School.

Miles was born in 1953. He was educated in Holden and Camrose, graduating there, and attended Camrose College for one year. He then studied at the U. of A. in the field of Commerce. In 1974 Miles was married to Judy Finley of Camrose. He is now employed at C.F.C.N. Radio and T.V. as an accountant. Miles and Judy have two daughters, Lisa and Kerri, and reside in Calgary.

Gregory was born in 1957, a very special baby, weighing only three pounds, five ounces, and survived with the special care of a very devoted man, Dr. Calo. He started his education in Holden, then graduated from Camrose Composite High. He attended Camrose College for one year. Gregory was then employed by Stelco in Camrose, where he entered the field of electricity. He studied at N.A.I.T., where he obtained his diploma as an electrician. He is now studying to become an instrument mechanic and is living at home with his parents.

Chrystian, Joe

Joe Chrystian was born in 1919, the fifth child of Kost and Anna Chrystian. He attended Likeness



Virginia, Helen, Joe and Charles beside their home built in 1957.

School which was a four mile walk from home. At the age of fourteen he was ploughing fields with eight horses for ten hours a day.

In 1940 he joined the army. In 1942 he married Helen Anhill from Ryley and they lived on the Leonard Jensen place until 1944. Gloria was born in 1943, and William in 1944.

In 1945 they moved to the Paddy O'Doherty homestead which had been bought by the Chrystian family in 1933. They lived in granaries while they built their first home. That same year they were completely hauled out. Virginia was born in 1948.

In the spring of 1949, the barn, tank, hay, pigs and chickens were lost in a fire. After two years of hard work a new barn was completed.

Their fourth child, Charles, was born in 1956, and in 1957 they built a new home.

Gloria married Hans Meyers from Thorsby. They have seven children and live in Leduc where they operate their own business.



Joe Chrystian family. Back Row: Charles, Helen, William. Seated: Gloria, Joe, Virginia.

William married Linda Lund from Bruce. They farm south of Holden and William works at the seed cleaning plant. They have three children, Samantha, Tabatha, and Joey.

Virginia married Revyl Smith from South Africa. They live in Edmonton. Virginia is office manager of William Color and Revyl operates his own business.

Charles lives and works in Edmonton.

Joe and his wife Helen live on NE 36-47-17 in the Palmer district southwest of Holden.

Chrystian, Kost by Peter Chrystian

Kost, was born in 1886 in the "celo" Celejow, county of Hushatian, West Ukraine, the son of Joe and Ann Chrystian.

In 1907 Kost decided to immigrate to Canada, leaving his parents, brothers and sister behind. His brother George came a few years later. When Kost arrived in Canada, he found himself in a strange country. He had no experience of working away from home, but he had determination and great hope for a new and better way of life. When he first came to Canada, he worked for four years in a copper and steel mine in Ontario. He decided that this wasn't the kind of life he liked, so he went west to Manitoba, working at Winnipeg for some time. Then he decided to go farther west arriving at Strathcona (South Edmonton). He got a job on the railroad in the Daysland area. While working at Daysland he met Anne Motkowski. Anne was born in 1897 in Krackowic (Woyla Groetcha), daughter of Joseph and Mary Motkowski. She came to Canada from Poland in 1902 at the age of five years with her parents, brother and three sisters. They homesteaded in the Polska area.



Ann and Kost Chrystian, 1924.

In 1912 it was a happy day for Mom and Dad when they were married at the Kopernick Church. After they were married, being able to speak three different languages besides Ukrainian, Dad became a foreman at Tofield, and Mom was cook for the crew. Their first child, Mike, was born in 1913.

In the fall of 1913, Dad filed for a homestead, the only one available in this area was the S.E. 34-47-17. Then in the spring Dad went out to improve the homestead. When he arrived about $\frac{2}{3}$ of his land was covered with water, but he was determined to start farming. He built a 14 x 16 house, using shiplap lumber and siding, with slats in the inside plastered. He broke two acres of land and in 1915, seven more acres were broken. Two more children were born, Mary in 1915 and Julia in 1916.

In 1916 Dad bought another quarter of land the N.W. 20-48-16. They moved there because the homestead land had too much water and very little land suitable for cultivation. During the five years they lived on this property they were hailed out two years in a row and the next two years were dry and the fifth year they were hailed out again. In the meantime the drainage ditch was dug on the homestead, and most of the water was drained off, so after the bad years they had on N.W. 20-48-16 they decided to move back. Three children were born, Tom in 1917, Joe in 1919 and Maggie in 1921. Mike and Mary attended school at Vermillion Valley.

After moving back in 1921 Dad built two log barns, a log chicken house, added one more room to the house and cleared more land. All the bush was cut by axe during the winter months. Some winters when they cut the trees, the snow was above their knees. Most of the trees were trimmed and used for rails to build corrals, fence posts and the rest for firewood. As the years went by there were six more children: Exania (1922), Rose (1923), Stephania (1925), Peter (1930), Daniel (1933) and Mathew (1936).

They bought their first car in the summer of 1937, a 1935 Ford, for which they paid \$700.00. Then in 1939 a 101 Massey Harris tractor was bought for \$1343.00. I believe it was the first rubber tired tractor in the Palmer area.



Chrystian family: Mathew, Daniel, Peter, Joe, Tom, Mike, Stephania, Mrs. Chrystian, Mary, Julia, Maggie, Exania, Rose.

In 1938 Dad passed away, leaving Mother with ten children to care for. Mother managed with the help of her family, to keep the land and cope with the difficulties encountered. Very little food was bought, Mother had a very green thumb and her garden provided us with all our vegetables. Even though she was unable to read or write, she had a wonderful talent for cooking different dishes. She stayed on the homestead until 1944. Then Mother, Mathew, Daniel and I moved to the Round Hill area to live with her

son Tom, where she lived until 1948 when she married Mike Dutchak and moved to Edmonton. She passed away in 1956. Dad is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, South Holden, and Mother is buried in Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

To their marriage were born six sons and six daughters.

Mike, married Eva Stokowski from Holden in 1939. They reside in Camrose. (See Michael Chrystian History.)

Mary, married Mike Umrysh from Holden in 1935. They reside in Camrose. (See Mike Umrysh History.)

Julia married John Hoynick from Daysland in 1937. They had two children: Irene married Neils Johnson, and Dennis married Audrey Weich. Julia resided at Daysland until her passing in 1949. John passed away in 1980. They had eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Tom married Nadia Danylak from Holden in 1944. They moved to the Round Hill area in the spring of 1944. They have four children, Ronald, farming in the Round Hill area, James married Darlene Fedun and works for Northwest Drug Co. They have three children and live at St. Albert. Victoria married Richard Dec; they have three children and live in Edmonton. Judy married Randall Gunderson in 1978 Randall passed away. Judy and her two children live in Camrose.



Back Row: Joe, Daniel, Tom, Mathew, Peter. Front Row: Maggie, Mary, Exania, Stephania, Mike.

Joe married Helen Anhill from Ryley in 1942. (See Joe Chrystian story.)

Maggie married Peter Danylak (brother to Nadia) in 1941. (See Peter Danylak Story.)

Exania married Wesley Schleuder from Daysland in 1942. Exania is a head cook for the Co-op Cafe in Wetaskiwin and Wesley is retired. They presently live in Wetaskiwin and have two children; Hugo and Venita. Venita married Rod Grinde and they have two children.

Rose married Charles E. Stapleford from Watford, Ontario in 1949. Rose is a seamstress and Charles is semi-retired. They reside at Victoria, B.C. They had one child who passed away in infancy.

Stephania went to work in Edmonton for Swifts, where she met James McKenzie, who was in the United States Air Force. They were married in 1945 and moved to Dayton, Ohio. They have three children; Naomi (Mrs. Ed Bentley), Stephanie (Mrs. Chris Ferguson) and Philip, and two grandchildren.

Peter married Emily Umrysh from Holden in 1963. (See Peter Chrystian Story.)

Daniel married Phyllis Ronsko from Daysland in 1960. Daniel worked for Ogilvie Flour Mills and is now employed by Continental Grain Company at Morinville, Alberta. They have four children; Darrel, Eldon, Donna and Tracy, and they reside in Edmonton.

Mathew married Florence Ronsko (sister to Phyllis) in 1963. At the age of eighteen he took up an apprenticeship in brick laying. He worked with George Schmidt and Gordon Pittinger. At the time of his passing in 1975 he lived at Spruce Grove, Alberta. Florence has now moved to Camrose with her four children; Charlene, Bradley, Wayne and Keri. She works for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

If my parents were here today, I'm sure they would be very proud of their 110 descendants (12 children, 36 grandchildren, 58 great grandchildren and 4 great, great grandchildren).

Chrystian, Michael and Family by Eva (Stokowski) Chrystian

Michael was born in Tofield on November 3, 1913 and went to Likeness School. He is the eldest of a family of twelve children. In 1933, he bought N.E. 34-47-17-W4th from Jim Jensen.

Michael and Eva were married at St. Gregory's Church in Holden on October 23, 1939 and lived on this farm south west of Holden; they had six children, Kost, Louie, Violet, Sylvia, Christine, and Darlene who attended Palmer School, travelling by horse and buggy in summer, and horse and cutter in winter. In 1955 they went to Bawlf School by bus.

They made a lot of improvements on the farm. They drilled a well and built new buildings, also planted a large shelter belt. In 1954 Calgary Power, telephone, and indoor plumbing were installed.

In 1964, our eldest son Kost married Marie Mis-



Darlene, Christine, Sylvia, Violet, Louie and Kost Chrystian.

yk. They have three children Patricia, Cindy and Kyle. Louie married Lucille Gumpinger, and they have three sons, Chris, Curtis, and Cameron. They live at St. Albert. Violet married Edward Yakobczyk, and they have three daughters, Lavona, Loretta, and Veronica. They live in Edmonton. Sylvia was married to Wilfred Ewaskiw. They had three children, Beverly, Michael, and Debbie. Sylvia passed away in 1976. Christine married Richard Chartrand, and they have two children, Kevin and Lisa. They live in Camrose. Darlene married Russell Van Haitsma, and have three daughters, Kim, Yvette, and Latisha. They live in Camrose.



Mike and Eva Chrystian: Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1964.

They sold the farm to Kost and Marie in 1965 and moved to Camrose. Michael was employed by the City of Camrose, while Eva was a ward aide at St. Mary's Hospital.

Kost farmed till 1976 and sold the farm to George and Dixie Graden, and moved to Ryley for one year, then to Camrose. Kost is employed by the Camrose School Division.

Chrystian, Peter

Peter, the fourth son of Kost and Anna Chrystian, was born in 1930 in the Holden area. His father passed away when he was seven years old. His first grade was spent at Likeness School, four miles away, then he went to Palmer School till 1944. In the spring of 1944, Mother and her sons moved to the Round Hill area to live with her son, Tom. Peter finished his education at Meldal School.



Four generations: Ethel Umrysh, Emily Chrystian and Annette standing behind Mike Poshtar.

There is one specific thing that Peter remembers when going to Likeness School; this was crossing the big drainage ditch. By taking the road, the distance was four miles, so whenever possible they would take a short cut which would save them a mile. However there was one problem, they had to cross the drainage ditch full of water. There was no bridge, so they had to walk on a barbed wire fence line. They walked on the bottom wire and held on to the top one. One morning when Peter and his sisters were going to school, Peter was almost across when his feet slipped off and fell into the water, but still holding on to the wire. He lifted himself up and with the help of his

sister he made it across. He was wet waist down, so his sisters told him he had to go home and change clothes. That meant another trip across the ditch which was terrifying.



Annette Chrystian with her parents at her graduation, 1983.

In 1950 he bought the S.E. 14-48-16 from Louie Zieminek and farmed from Round Hill. He stayed with his brother till 1960 when he purchased two more quarters N.W. 1-48-16 and N.E. 2-48-16 from Peter Danylak and moved back into the Holden area. Tom and Peter farmed in partnership till 1964.

In 1963, he married Emily, daughter of John and Ethel Umrysh. She attended Scona School till grade four, then was bussed to Holden and graduated in 1960. She worked as teller at the Royal Bank of Canada, at Holden.

They have one daughter, Annette, born in 1964. She is taking her grade twelve at Holden School and will graduate in 1983.

Chupka, Alex and Frances

Alex and Frances Chupka moved to the Poe district from Youngstown, Alberta in 1925, during the terrible drought in southern Alberta. They purchased land from the C.P.R. two miles south of Poe, and five years later purchased the Bill Thompson farm.



Frances and Alex Chupka with their youngest sons; Bill, Harry and Tommy in 1934.



50th Anniversary of Alex and Frances Chupka.

The Chupkas had nine children, John, Mike, Joe, Bill, Harry, Tommy, Ann (Forgan), Katie (Forbyth) and Helen, who passed away at the age of twelve years. All the children live in the Poe, Holden and Edmonton areas. They have thirteen grandchildren and celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1960.

They retired in the hamlet of Poe until the time of their passing.

Chupka, Mike and Kay

Mike and Kay moved to Holden from Coleman, Alberta, where Mike was a contract miner. They bought the Holden Trading Store which they operated for twenty-seven years. After selling their business to Reg. and Mary Lou Dolson, they moved to Edmonton.



Mike and Kay Chupka, Patricia and Betty.



Mike Chupka family: Betty, Mike, Kay, Patricia and grandson Perry.

They have two daughters, Patricia is married to Gunner Anderson and they have one son, Perry. Betty is nursing in Florida.

Mike and Kay are now semi-retired. Mike hobby farms on his land south of Ryley, while Kay clerks part time at Eatons.

Church, Volney and Family

Volney Church homesteaded in 1909 on land about five and a half miles south-west of Bruce. He returned to Alma, Michigan, to marry Grace DuBois who was teaching school in Ferris Center. Volney's mother Kate accompanied him back to his farm and they were joined by his wife when her school term ended.



Volney Church's mother Kate, his wife, Grace with Fred and Virginia Church, 1918.

Volney and Grace Church had two children, Mary Virginia born in 1914 and Fred DuBois in 1917. After they left the area in 1927 another daughter, Helen Jeanette was born in 1928.



Fred, Volney and Virginia Church.

Grace was West Bruce School's first teacher. The Church's first home, a log house burned to the ground in 1919, after which Grace took their two children to visit her parents at Alma. Volney bought a small building and moved it onto the property and added a room which was used as a bedroom. Later he built a hip roofed barn.

Volney had come to Alberta originally to escape the hay fever he suffered in Michigan. He was completely free of it in Alberta.

Clark, William A. Family

An immigrant train brought several families from Britton, South Dakota to the promised land of Canada in 1902. W. A. Clark, his wife Dora, and their family, Victor, Vera and Loid were among them. Hitting a snow storm at Portal, they were delayed for several days, and caring for the stock was almost impossible. They arrived in Strathcona, now S. Edmonton where they stayed the first year.



Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Clark.

W. A. Clark, Applebys and others took up homesteads in the Vermilion Valley. W. A. Clark homesteaded the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -20-49-15 but bought the south half of 19-49-15. During the summer they broke up land and built buildings. Only a barn was erected on SE 19. In the spring of 1903, with a platform built on a sleigh and a tent overtop, with a stove inside, the Clark family started with a team for the homestead.

The first while was spent at Appleby's. Mr. Clark, while on a trip to Tofield for oats, caught cold and was confined to his bed for sometime. Meanwhile the neighbors built a house on SE 19. The family moved into a log house, no floor and a tar paper roof. Next summer a floor was added along with a better roof. Mr. Clark never fully recovered from his illness and was troubled with rheumatism the rest of his life. The nearest doctor was at Vegreville and a trip with horses cost \$45. Freightage was done from Edmonton, Vegreville, or Wetaskiwin with horses. Wm. Campbell started a store and post office called Vermillion Valley. Then Thos. Appleby opened a post office called Long Ridge, where mail came once a week.

A need for a school was felt so Long Ridge was built with Charles Brisbin as the first teacher. Food supply was helped out by use of bush rabbits and prairie chickens. Water was a problem until a deep well was finally drilled.



Clark family. Victor, June, Vera, Loid.

Prairie fires were a dreaded enemy. A fire was being fought in the spring of 1906 when Elsie Juvernia (June) arrived. Fire guards were ploughed around buildings. In 1909 lightning struck the barn killing all the horses in a fire. Only a two year old outside and one horse loaned to a neighbor were left. A new team was bought and they were driven for the first time to see the railroad being built.

Mr. Clark was active in church affairs, breaking the first sod for the building of the Methodist Church. He often drove the ministers on Sundays to various points, Woodside being one. After three years in a wheel chair suffering from a stroke, Mr. Clark died in 1936.

Loid and June stayed on the farm with their mother. Mrs. Clark was a good mother and hard worker, not knowing the conveniences of freezers, electricity etc. until late life. She boarded school teachers for a number of years and was an active member of the Ladies' Aid. She died in 1957 at the age of 86.

Victor tried his hand at various jobs. He got the job of playing organ or piano wherever he went. He served as organist of United Church for years. He's been an elevator agent, a storekeeper and worked in lumber yards. He was married to Rena Reynolds in 1922. A son and two daughters were born to them. Victor is now in a personal care home in Winnipeg, and Rena in a senior citizens' home.

Vera taught school for several years before marrying Maxwell Scott and farming at Artland, Sask. He subsequently worked at the lumber business at Sunset Prairie, B.C. and Bay Tree, Alberta. Later in life they moved into the Senior Citizens' Manor in B.C. They had raised three boys. Maxwell died in 1974.

Loid and June moved to Holden. The call of the land was still in Loid's blood and he helped neighbors with farm work for several years. After Loid's death in 1977, June sold the place and moved to Dawson Creek, B.C. where she and Vera live in Rotary Manor.

Collins, Will and Emma

Will and Emma Collins, both of Irish extraction had been raised in or near Moncton, N.B. and had moved to Vancouver where Mr. Collins stayed for a time and worked as a carpenter.

From 1917 to about 1930, Mrs. Collins taught Adams School three different periods of time. The first short term she boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Miller. After spending some time with her husband at the coast, she returned to teach and lived just across the road from the school with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Giebelhaus. She also taught at Redwater for a short time.

When in 1924 she returned for the third time, she purchased a quarter of land (SE 34-50-15) from Mr. Giebelhaus. A granary served as living quarters until Mr. Collins built a small three roomed bungalow with a full basement. Mrs. Collins walked the three miles to school when the weather was good; riding or driving her faithful horse "Bid" when conditions demanded.

About 1929 she acquired another half section (S 35-50-15) of land and turned her full attention to farming. With the help of Joe St. Peter, brush was cleared, the new land cultivated and put into produc-



Emma Collins, 1957.

tion. The depression years took their toll. Thus, in 1933 or '34, the quarter section was sold to Henry, son of Conrad Giebelhaus.

The house building business at the coast slowed down too, so Mr. Collins moved back. A small house was erected, however the interior was not completed until years later when bought by Robert Schultz and moved to his farm.

The "Thompson" place, a half section along the Bruce Road with the Vermilion River flowing through it was bought for pasture. When Geo. J. Giebelhaus bought the half section (S 35-50-15) in 1949 or '50, the Collins moved to the Thompson farm. Over the years the land was rented out to a succession of neighbors.

After Mr. Collins passed away in 1950, Mrs. Collins spent a couple of winters in Moncton with relatives.

When she returned to Vegreville, she bought a small house in town where she lived until failing health made it necessary to stay for a few months in the Auxiliary Hospital. She passed away in 1969 at the age of 80.

"Collie", as she was known to many, was an animal lover. Besides raising some cattle and pigs and owning a few horses, she gave a home to many a stray dog and cat. Their welfare often preceded her own. After her old horse "Bid" died she depended on the neighbors or her own strong legs for transportation. She did lots of walking and she enjoyed it, believing that it kept her healthy and young.

Courtney, James

by Ethel Lux

My dad, Jim Courtney was born in Anthon, near Moville, in Iowa, in 1881, of Irish and French descent. As a young man he came to Canada in 1903. He filed on a homestead for himself and his brother Tom thirteen miles south of Holden, in the Sandstorm district. The following year they both came back to prove up on their land.

The country at that time was very wet with lots of sloughs. The closest town was Wetaskiwin, fifty miles west. Dad and Uncle Tom batched until they married the McCarter sisters. Dad was a good hunter and they lived a lot on prairie chicken and wild duck. Some of their first neighbors were the Edingers, John Van and McCormicks.

Our mother, Florence McCarter was born in Moville, Iowa in 1892. She came to Canada with her folks, the U. G. McCarters in 1905, and lived at Ohaton. Mom and Dad were married in 1910.

Dad farmed in partnership with his brother Tom until 1930. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Holden, and served for many years on the Holden Drainage Board. Many were the headaches and problems when they were digging the big ditch, and the smaller ditches so the country could be farmed.



Jim and Florence Courtney, Hazel and Ethel (1924).

They bought more land and all went well until 1919, the winter was long and cold, cattle died, prices went down to nothing and then the dry years followed. The long cold trips made to town in the winter time to haul grain would take all day. In the early days everyone was so friendly and my folks were always ready to lend a helping hand. Mom was almost like a district nurse, if anyone was sick or if there was a new baby in the district, it was Mom who took care of them.

Mom loved her music and played the organ by ear. She played for all our Christmas programs and any little house parties. We would often gather around the organ and sing while she played. Mom would read out loud the Saturday Evening Post by the light of the old kerosine lamp. A big thing for us was reading the funnies from the Edmonton Bulletin. Little Orphan Annie was very real and dear to us. When the Eaton catalogue came it was a real treat to us as we could cut up the old one to play paper dolls.

Mom was always busy picking wild berries and canning all her garden vegetables and meat, also baking bread, churning butter and washing clothes on a scrub board. She sewed all our clothes and for her nieces, and made her own quilts. She was always able to whip up a good meal for unexpected company. How did they manage to do it all!

Their first children were twin boys, born in 1913. Howard and Clarence died within a few days. Hazel was born in 1915. She married Percy Morrison and has lived all her married life in Surrey, B.C. Ethel was born in 1918. She married Ervin Lux and they live at Ponoka. Their son Stan lives in Edmonton. They have two grandchildren. Tom was born in 1933. He was a great comfort to our folks as they grew older, as we girls were married and gone. He married Carrie Reimer and they live at Linden, Alberta. He owns and operates "Courtney Berg Industries". Their children are Cathy, Lynn, Cindy, Jim and Derek. They also have five grandchildren.

My folks moved from the Sandstorm district in 1933, and lived for one year north of Holden, on a farm next to Groslands. They moved to Ponoka in 1934 and farmed there until Mom passed away in 1950, and Dad in 1958.

Courtney, Thomas Oliver **by Frances Grettum**

Thomas Courtney and his brother James, sisters Mary and Agnes and brother John (who died when young), were born and raised at Merville, Iowa. Their parents were Nickolas and Sophia Courtney.

In 1903, Tom's brother Jim, came to Alberta with James Mohler. Tom followed later the same year, with settlers' effects, by train to Wetaskiwin. The

train had been delayed in Calgary due to a blizzard. Their belongings were brought to the Ohaton area by team and wagon. Tom settled on a homestead (N.E. 20-47-16-4), and Jim took one north of his in the Sandstorm area, southwest of Holden. They lived on rabbits, prairie chickens, bean soup and baking powder biscuits while they batched.



The Thomas Courtney family: Eldon, Raymond, Loren, Frances, Howard, Vernon, Everett, Vera, Thomas, Bertha and Mabel.

In about 1902, Robert McCarter, who was a neighbor of the Courtney's in Merville, had come to Alberta and took a homestead for each of his children. His son Ulysses and his family lived near Ohaton. Some years later they moved to the Sandstorm district.

In 1909 Thomas Courtney married Bertha McCarter. Tom and Bertha first lived in a log house, but six years later they built a new two and a half story house. Their first son, Everett, was born in the McCarter home near Ohaton. Verna, their second child, died when she was three months old. Verna, Vera and Frances were born in the log house. Howard, Vernon, Mable, Eldon, Loren and Vincent were all born in the new home.

At one time, Tom worked as road councillor in the district and also spent a few years on the Sandstorm school board. The children got their education at Sandstorm School. They had to walk two and a half miles across country to school, but in the winter Jim's and Tom's kids would ride together with a horse drawn sleigh. The two families spent many happy evenings together. Florence would play the organ and we'd have a sing-song, and we also learned all the old fashioned dances. Bertha usually made big pans of popcorn for everyone. The Courtneys, McCarters and Mohlers were close neighbors in Iowa, so they also enjoyed many happy get-togethers.

In 1930, Tom and Bertha, leaving many very good neighbors, moved to Ohaton to farm the Mc-



Front Row: Bertha and Tom Courtney on their wedding day in 1909. Back Row: Jim and Florence Courtney.

Carter place. Five years later they moved to Ponoka. After losing their house and belongings in a fire, they returned to the Ohaton district in 1946. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1959.

Everett married Nellie Gervais in 1946. They have three children, Joanne, James and Hazel, and six grandchildren. They live in Fort Coulonge, Quebec. Vera and Frances had a double wedding in 1938. Vera married Clarence (Mike) Adams. They have twins, Elaine and Elwood, and four grandchildren. They live in Blaine, Washington. Frances married Raymond (Bob) Grettum. They have five daughters, Velma, Clareen, Vernille, Delphine and Keitha, and two sons, Kendall and Winston. They have twelve grandchildren. They live near Camrose. Howard married Dora Bragg from Ponoka. They have five children, Earl, William, Joan, Sharon and Donald, and nine grandchildren. They lived at Dried Meat Lake. Howard passed away in 1961. Vernon married Ayleen Brothen, and they live at Dried Meat Lake. They have one daughter, Dorothy, and two sons, Douglas and Daniel. Mabel married Jack Hoar and they farm near Ponoka. They have one son, Thomas. Eldon married Sheila Glazer in 1955. They live in Chilliwack, B.C. and their children are Colleen, Anthony, Ronald and Marilyn. Loren married Beatrice Brown in 1948. Their home is in Fort St. John, B.C. They have five children, Reginald, Vincent, Rae-Ann, Neil and Peggy Lynn, and four

grandchildren. Raymond married Joanne (Samson) Berg in 1968. His stepchildren are, Larry, Derryl and Judith. They live in Kelsey, Alberta, and they have three grandchildren.

Tom and Bertha have thirty-three grandchildren and thirty-eight great grandchildren. Tom passed away in 1962. Bertha has been in the Red Deer hospital for a number of years.

Editor's note: Bertha Courtney passed away in November 1982.

Crimmin, Cornelius (Neal) and Helene and Family

by Mary Martin with additions by Pearl Allan

Neal Crimmin was born near Lindsay, Ontario of Irish parents in 1884. He worked as a lumberjack skidding logs in winter and driving them down the river after spring break-up. When he announced that he was leaving for what his mother and sisters termed "That God-forsaken West", they were sure that they would never see him again. But go, he did. He arrived in booming Edmonton during the hard winter of 1907. Among other jobs, he worked at the building of the High Level Bridge, and helped to lay the street



Helen and Neal Crimmin, 1909.

car tracks on Jasper Avenue. It was on the inaugural run of the first Edmonton street car that he met Helene Christensen, born in Denmark, and newly arrived from Wisconsin, U.S.A. (see Hans J. Christensen story). Neal and Helen were married in 1909. Neal had become a city fireman and drove the horse-drawn fire engines as well as their ambulance. He was still there when the fire department became motorized, and has told us of driving to fires at the tremendous speed of **sixty miles an hour!**

In 1915 they were living on Ross Flats when the Saskatchewan River overflowed its banks. For a whole week their house was inundated with water up past the middle of the windows. What a mess! Fear of future floods helped them to decide to go farming. Neal and his friend Kenny McLennan formed a partnership and rented Section 28-49-15. Neal moved his wife and daughters Mary and Pearl to the farmhouse six miles northeast of Holden in the spring of 1917.

They all loved farm life, although it was a great change from flick of a switch to cleaning coal oil lamps, electric iron to sad irons and indoor plumbing to outdoor "biffy". Mother cheerfully milked cows, churned butter, baked bread, washed clothes on a washboard, raised chickens and all the other pioneer wife tasks. The first crop was sown and they all watched the beautiful mile-long wheat field grow toward maturity. What a blow it was to come out that July morning and find all hopes dashed by a hard frost which had killed the wheat.

There were other tough years to follow for the farmers: One winter the snow came early and deep so that there was not enough feed and many cattle starved. The "flu" also struck. Often whole families were down, and many died. Crimmins were fortunate, none of us got it. Perhaps we were saved by the gauze masks, or the chunk of camphor gum that Mom made us wear tied in a rag and hung by a string around our necks. Who knows?

On Pearl's first day of school at Longridge, Dad boosted her up onto old Daisy's bare back. They plodded safely to school. However at home time when the other horses began to trot, so did Daisy. The city kid bounced off and the other kids laughed. Pearl resolved to learn to ride and soon. Then her dad bought her a beautiful fleet sorrel pony named Jean. They were almost inseparable. Pearl became a real cowgirl, wearing voluminous riding bloomers (no slacks in those days). She herded her father's range cattle, also won a race while riding bareback at Holden Sports day. Best of all she and Jean now took part in the after school races, too. Mary well remembers the time she fell down the stairs and landed head first on the corner of the tin biscuit box. Blood streamed from the gash in her forehead. It was Jean that Dad

hitched to the buggy to get Mary to Dr. Farrell in record time for stitches.

Dan was born in 1918. Dad hung a lantern on the gatepost to guide Dr. Farrell with his horse and buggy to our place. How pleased we were to waken that fall morning to find that we had a new brother. When he became a toddler Dan had his problems. Mary recalls the time he fell down cellar and landed in a pan of Mom's precious setting eggs; also what a scary time he had in the yard alone. The big rooster used to attack him every time he ventured out into the yard alone.

Mary also remembers the beef ring. Each member would supply in turn a good "critter" which would be butchered and distributed on Saturday mornings. There was no refrigeration in those days, so meat had to be stored in basements, hung high on the windmill, buried in the grain, or cooked soon. Fresh beef in summer was a treat after the early years of salt pork.

Threshing was a really big event. The big steam engine would pull in the separator. Along behind would come the water wagon and the bunkhouse, at least ten bundle wagons, drivers, extra pitchers and grain wagons. The farmhouse routine changed. There was breakfast for over twenty men at six o'clock. How we loved to drive out to the field with a big bread pan full of sandwiches and goodies and a cream can full of hot coffee for the mid-morning and afternoon lunches. The men came in for the big dinners and suppers. Mother had a hired girl to help with the extra work. It was a great relief when the grain was safely stowed in the elevators and/or granaries. Not so if the snow came too soon.

Farming went well and we think the prices were pretty good, but Dad got restless and decided in 1923 to give up farming and take his family to Ontario. Everything was sold at an auction sale. Our clothes and a few treasures were packed into three trunks. We were welcomed with open arms by Dad's folks Easter Sunday. However this move didn't turn out as he had hoped. Mother too, preferred the "West". One day he arrived home with three harvesters' excursion tickets at \$19 apiece (Mary and Dan rode free). August found us back in Holden.

We spent the fall at Uncle Chris's farm with Dad working as a harvester. We wintered in a small three roomed house at Poe. It was a bitterly cold winter, but in spite of that Mom managed to keep the place warm. Dad had gone to Prince Rupert to cut ice for the Arctic Ice Co. Dan and Mary chose to have chicken pox that winter. Pearl and Mary attended Poe School.

When spring came, Dad came back and purchased the S½-9-49-15 two miles south of Longridge

School, and a short distance directly north of the C.N.R. (Holden-Bruce) water tank. Since the farm had no suitable house we spent the summer on the Jackson (now Stokowski) place, while our house was being built. It was here that Dan became very ill with pleurisy. When all else failed, Dr. Borden of Daysland was called in. He diagnosed immediately and said that only an immediate operation could save Dan, and that he would be back to perform it as soon as he could assemble his instruments and a nurse. He brought Mrs. Lulu Third and commandeered Dad to hold Dan still on the table while the ether was given. As soon as the doctor removed a large solidified mass, Dan's breathing eased. A tube drained his side for weeks. After a long convalescence Dan was able to start school. He was to feel the effects of this illness all his life.

Next began the arduous task of clearing the land, cutting brush, pulling roots and breaking the soil. In winter there were usually men who had no place to live who were willing to brush in exchange for room and board and access to Neal's big tobacco can. This back breaking work went on for years.

As it meant starting fresh with machinery, animals and household goods, auction sales became a source of equipment as well as a social outlet. Our parents loved auctions. Mother would proudly display a boiler full of "treasures" she had bought for only 10¢! We girls deplored the awful assortment of dishes filling the cupboards.

Every spring our neighbors the Clarks brought their big circular saw and more neighbors gathered for a bee to saw up the piles of logs that had been cleared during the winter from the land. Dad not only made sure that we always had a big woodpile, but he had it strategically placed by the path between the back door and the outbuildings. He said a few sticks brought in each trip would keep the big woodbox filled without much effort for anyone.

Living near the water tank affected our lives. The depression brought many tramps off the trains asking for food. Dad's orders were that no one was to be refused food but it would be alright to suggest that they split a little wood while the meal was being prepared. Word must have gotten around as very few came after that. Dad's ambulance training proved useful; he was often called to help with the injured. Once it was for a poor young lad whose legs had been severed when he slipped under the moving train wheels. He died from loss of blood before Dad reached him. One Sunday Johnny Tkaczyk was accidentally drowned. The R.C.M.P. and a crowd soon gathered and Dad was fetched. He was the only one who could or would, dive to retrieve the body. After diving all afternoon he succeeded. We thought our

father had done a brave deed. Imagine our chagrin when a tiny item appeared in the Journal stating the the R.C.M.P. had recovered the body! We were always excited when a Royal Train stopped at Crimmin's crossing for water. We, and a big crowd would rush down hoping for a glimpse of the King and Queen. No one ever showed.

Mother was an efficient homemaker. She liked to have her family warm and well clothed. She believed it was a sin to waste anything — especially time. She has been seen sitting knitting, listening to "Ma Perkins", reading a story during the commercial, while she kept the churn going with her foot and all the time making sure that the baking bread didn't burn! She made us new clothes out of old, and hooked rugs out of dyed rags. She boarded teachers for many years and enjoyed their company. After we had gone away to school it was always good to come home on Friday evenings to a delicious supper and find the Saturday work all done so that we could have an enjoyable weekend together doing whatever pleased us most.

Dad was a "wheeler-dealer", he loved to trade and was always willing to take a chance. We never knew what next he would bring home. It could be anything from a team to a pair of tame white rats! He could never say no. Mother said he'd give you the shirt off his back. He was a soft touch for a loan. He often said that his customers were the ones that the banker turned down. He was a regular attender and generous supporter of St. Gregory's Church since its beginning. He served on Longridge School board for several years. He worked as a foreman in local road building. We remember him fondly for his Irish wit and sayings, and find ourselves often quoting him.

After Holden High, Pearl went to Camrose Normal. She was fortunate enough to get a school at Torlea and stayed five years. The depression hit the first year. Instead of a yearly increase in salary it was a decrease. There was no use complaining — it was preferable to being unemployed as many were. When the salary got to \$400 per annum she left and took grade XII and summer school to get a first class certificate. After two years at Anthill School near Rowley she and Donald Allan were married in 1937. (See Allan story).

After grade XII Mary attended Alberta College in 1936. The college could not keep its promise of jobs for graduates since there were no jobs. Eventually Mary went to work in the office of Burns' Creamery in Holden. She remained there until she married Alfred Mohr in 1941. Al had been the accountant in Holden Royal Bank for the five years prior. They resided in Innisfail until Al joined the Armed Forces in 1942, and Mary went to work for the American Army at Normal Wells. After Al returned

from overseas he served as manager in various Royal Banks in Edmonton until his retirement. They had two sons Dr. Gregory, a dentist in Edmonton, and Rodney, married to Lorraine Sabin and living in St. Albert with their daughter Kaylee. Al passed away in 1976. Mary married Jim Martin, a retired Royal Bank manager in 1981. They winter at Desert Hot Springs and summer in Edmonton.



Pearl, Dan and Mary.

During the war years the farmers prospered and the depression was history. Dan remained at home to farm with our parents until after the harvest in 1952. He then went to work at Edmonton Motors. By



Alfred Mohr, Pearl Allan, Donald Allan, Neal Crimmin, Mary Mohr, Helen Crimmin, Dan and Margaret Crimmin, Gail Allan and Don Allan. In Front: Rodney and Gregory Mohr.

spring he had decided not to come back to the farm. In 1954 he married Margaret Manz, who died in 1961. In 1974 he married Aline Morin. Dan enjoyed fixing cars and always kept a well stocked shop in his garage. He died suddenly in 1976 and is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Edmonton.

Dan's decision not to return left our parents with no alternative but to retire. It was time. They had worked hard during those pioneer years. They held an auction sale and moved to Holden where they purchased a home at 5116-50th Avenue. Here they enjoyed watching the children passing to and from school. They loved having their grandchildren Donnie and Gail Allan drop in for a snack of Grandma's goodies. Good neighbors, especially Edith and Melvin Carlson made their town years more enjoyable. Mother and Dad resided in this little house until Dad died in 1959, just three weeks after they had celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Mother continued to live there until she passed peacefully in her sleep in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Crimmin are buried in Holden Cemetery.

Daily, M. B. Family by Orville Daily

My father Merrill Bertis, commonly called Bert Daily, was born in Michigan in 1861. Ella Maria Story was born in Vermont in 1865. They were married in Peterson, Iowa in 1886. Two sons were born while they lived there. Ellsworth in 1888 and Wilbur in 1890. Edna was born in Porter, Minnesota in 1902 after they had moved there. They found conditions to be disagreeable: stony land, few trees and bad blizzards. So they decided to try Canada as a place to find cheap land. In July, 1902, Bert came to the area which is now called Holden. He filed on a homestead SE¼ 16-49-16 in July. He also bought S½ 9-49-16 for \$1120.00. This was \$3.50 an acre with a down payment of \$186.00, the balance to be paid over five years at 6% interest. The other three quarters were filed on by Alf Palmer the NW, George Story the NE, and John Story the SW. John and George were my mother's brothers. The quarter which my father filed on had been filed on by James Andrew who had cancelled his claim.

When they arrived in Canada they unloaded their livestock and all other settlers' effects at Wetaskiwin the closest railroad point. Being so far from a railway I consider that my father was very fortunate that when the railroad came through in 1909, his homestead was only about two miles southwest of where the village of Holden was established and his C.P.R. land only a mile farther south.



Back Row: Mrs. Ellsworth Daily, Ellsworth, Wilbur, Edna. Front Row: Bertice, Bert Daily, Emma, Mrs. Daily, Orville Daily.

In the spring of 1904, my mother brought Ellsworth, Wilbur and Edna to the area to join my father. Later when they were old enough, Ellsworth and Wilbur were able to file on land that others had filed on, but had let go. Ellsworth got the NE 10-9-16 just south of Holden and Wilbur got SW 12-49-16 two miles southeast.

My father did freighting from Wetaskiwin, bringing in supplies that other settlers needed, and supplies to people who had established small stores in their homes. Two of these were Bosmans at Round Hill and Campbells about two miles west of where Holden now stands. The freighting was quite a difficult job as there were no roads and a steep hill to come down, with the Pipestone Creek to ford. The hill was so steep that it was necessary to chain the wagon wheels so they couldn't roll, and with the sleighs, one or two runners were wrapped with chains, otherwise it was impossible for the horses to hold the loads back.

Bert Daily's first grain binder was a six foot McCormick that was purchased at Wetaskiwin in crates and assembled after it got to the farm. It was a right hand cut. Most other makes were a left hand cut. It required four horses to pull it. Sheaves were stooked and usually stacked until they could be threshed.

They lived in a tent until a house was built. Bert Daily had the first all lumber house in the area. It was 16 feet by 18 feet with an upstairs. The ground floor was one room with a kitchen stove, cupboards, table and a bed. The children slept upstairs.



Orville and Dorothy Daily in 1941.

I believe that the first grain threshing machine was owned by my father in partnership with Peter Sorensen who lived several miles southeast of our place. It was driven by horsepower with eight horses going round and round which turned a rod that took the power to the threshing machinery. The machine had to be fed by hand and had a straw carrier with a man stacking straw. This was about 1905 and 1906. In two or three years machines powered by steam engines took over. Bert also had a feed grinding mill, powered by eight horses. He ground feed for many people for several years until he bought a seven horse-power gas engine to furnish the power.

I, Orville Daily, was born in the farm house in 1906. My sister and I were baptized in Mr. Campbell's home where church services were held when a travelling minister came along.

One of the problems in the early years was the lack of good water. There were sloughs where the cattle and horses could drink and often this was used for washing clothes but water for drinking and cooking was difficult to get. Some wells were dug by hand and wood or stone cribbing put in. Mr. Hans Christensen, father of Chris, Magnus and Tom, got a well boring machine, which dug wells about two feet in diameter. This machine could go 45 or 50 feet deep. It was powered by one horse going round and round, then the bucket raised and emptied, and the dirt was removed by a scraper. Many times no water was found. Sometimes the water was too strong with alkali. Bert bought a well drilling outfit to go deeper and get a more dependable supply. Mr. Andrew Roland of Viking was very good at locating water veins with a willow "V" shaped branch. Dad never dug a dry hole where he said there was water. Sometimes the quality was poor. He drilled deep wells on our own place, at John Story's and at Wm. Campbell's. I do not know how many others.

Another of the problems of the early years was the keeping of perishable foods in hot weather. As meat was difficult to keep, our protein needs were mostly met by having lots of homemade cottage cheese, eggs and a chicken on Sunday. Years later beef rings were started. These provided fresh beef in summer.

One time my mother made butter on a hot summer day. She put it outside in the shade of the house, in a gallon crock to cool. One of the cows came up knocked the cover off, and ate all the butter. So much fat all at once was too much and she died a few days later.

The seed corn that the early settlers brought with them from Minnesota and Iowa took too long to mature, so in the early years they had no varieties that would produce here. I can well remember my father

taking us all in the buggy to a home in the Shonts area twenty miles from home to see some corn with fully developed ears. It was the first that anyone had found that would mature here. Preston and Huron were the common varieties of wheat. They had to be seeded before the end of April to mature before frost. I remember walking to school through my uncle George's fields and seeing for the first time a crop of wheat that had no beards. This was probably the first Marquis wheat in the area. Marquis was top quality and matured a few days earlier than other kinds. A few years later Red Bobs and Garnet wheats became common and were much earlier.

Having come from Minnesota's flat prairie where winter blizzards were very severe, my mother was in the habit of putting the coal oil lamp right by the window where it could be easily seen. One evening we heard a noise outside. Wilbur went to see what it was. A man and his team and sleigh were there. It was a wild stormy night. He had left Holden at 2:00 p.m. Somewhere, miles from town, he had got turned around and completely lost. He had seen the light during a lull in the storm. I am sure that my mother saved that man from freezing to death by having the lamp in the window.

My school days started in the brick school that had been built in 1911. It had two school rooms and a full basement. When it was being built my father had wanted the walls built higher so that two rooms could be added. Years later the roof had to be raised to add the two rooms. Teachers I remember most were Max Beckwith, Barbara Carlisle and Charles Brisbin. Mr. Beckwith was an excellent teacher, and firm on discipline. Mr. Brisbin was especially good at teaching the appreciation of good literature. When Mr. Brisbin took ill Mr. Walsh came. I quit school because my father was quite sick with tuberculosis and Edna and I put in most of the crop that spring. I could have, but did not go back, as I would have been a year behind.

As I was growing up Sunday school and church were important to our family. Mr. Stokes, a dedicated church worker as well as scout leader, had great influence on the boys in the district. I especially remember Mr. Bosomworth, a student minister who borrowed our saddle horse to travel to schools to hold services. Years later, as an ordained minister he performed the wedding when Dorothy Seccombe and I were married in 1933.

Ellsworth was married to Eva Coombes in 1908. Three children were born to them: Bert, Emma and Cecil. They farmed southwest of Holden until 1916 when he enlisted in the 218th Battalion. Wilbur also joined the 218th. They were transferred to the 8 Canadian Railway Troops in France. After returning in 1919 they both farmed in this area for some years.

Ellsworth moved to Hope, B.C. where he died in 1962. Emma the only one of his children living, resides in Seattle. Wilbur married Doris Wear in 1922. She was the daughter of Frank Wear who moved to the Scona area from Boston, Mass. and who developed a fine Holstein dairy herd. Wilbur and Doris moved to California in 1929, where he developed a small dairy herd. They had four children: Gerald, Homer, Phyllis and Margaret Patrice (Peggy Pat). Wilbur passed away in 1956. Doris still lives in California as do Gerald and Phyllis. Homer was killed in an airplane crash in Alaska. Peggy Pat lives in Arizona.

Edna worked in Lamont Hospital for awhile, then moved to Alberta Hospital in 1928. There she met and married David Spink at Ponoka in 1932. Two children were born: David Jr. and Margaret. David lives at Ponoka while Margaret is at Kamloops, B.C. Edna passed away in 1977. David Sr. still lives in their home at Ponoka.

Dorothy Seccombe came to the Talbot area in 1927 with her family. In 1929 she attended Normal School in Camrose and taught from 1930 to 1933 at Vermillion Valley and Talbot schools. After Dorothy and I were married we farmed a mile west of Holden. In 1944 we moved to Salisbury district southeast of Edmonton where we had a dairy herd until 1967, when we sold our dairy. Dorothy had a stroke and passed away suddenly in 1979 while we were on a holiday at Hope, B.C. We have two children: Brenda who is married to Gordon Tuck. They live on a farm near Lavoy. They have two girls. Clifford is starting a market garden and greenhouse business on my farm two miles south of Sherwood Park. He and his wife Bonnie, have two girls and a boy.

I think I should mention some things about the year 1918. In July the killing frost resulted in there being no wheat to thresh in the Holden area. Oats were light and made poor quality feed. 1919 was dry, crops were poor, a heavy snow came in October and stayed until late April. The feed situation was critical. Some of the business men in Holden went around locating suitable feed. Hugh McAfee donated his time thusly. By spring the only feed was from Ontario at a very high price. Many farmers had a hard time recovering from that winter.

Damsgard, Chris **by A. Sorensen**

Chris immigrated to Canada from Denmark around 1902 with his brother Nels who was a carpenter. Chris worked in lumber camps for a short while, but being of slight build and not a particularly strong man, soon found out that this work was not for him,

especially when he got paired off with a big Swede on a bush saw and was nearly done in trying to do his share of the work.

In 1904 Chris and Nels came to the Poe District and filed homesteads on the NW ¼ 30-49-16-4 and NW ¼ 36-49-17-4 respectively, both obtaining their patent in 1907. I do not know how long Nels stayed around, but in the 1920's he was married and is living in Oregon. He and his wife stayed with Chris for some time during 1929 and 1930 during which time Nels did a lot of carpenter work for Chris. They then returned to Oregon and both are now deceased.

Chris was a member of the Poe School Board when the District was first established in 1915. He raised pure bred shorthorn cattle of which he was very proud and could spend hours talking about their pedigrees. In the 1920's and early thirties he exhibited and sold bulls at the Edmonton Spring Show. We always worked our herds of cattle together. Chris would do the vaccinating, Dad the dehorning, and I the roping and castrating.

Mother frequently boarded his threshers and had him over for Christmas Eve supper at which time he would bring a box of Jap oranges and present my three sisters and myself with a dollar each. We children really thought that was something, as a dollar was very hard to come by in those early years.

Chris farmed actively till about 1940, then rented his land, keeping only a few head of cattle. In 1959 he became ill and was unable to live alone. He was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton where he remained until his death in 1969 at the age of ninety-six.

Danilak and Jobber Families **by Stanley Jobber**

Nickola and Pearl Danilak, with their daughters Katherine and Pearl, aged twelve and five, emigrated from Poland in 1903. They stayed with friends in the Beaver Lake district north of Holden the first winter and in the spring of 1904 they took a homestead NW-34-47-16 in the Scona district.

That summer, with the help of neighbors, they built a log house which was plastered with clay and had a thatched roof. During the summer when the log house was under construction they had a house made of tall grass sheaves. A fire destroyed this so for two weeks the family slept under the stars before another temporary grass shack was erected to protect the family from elements. Their next door neighbor, John Danilak, cultivated a small plot for a garden so they could plant potatoes. He also gave them fifty pounds of flour, and with cheese and butter that their one cow produced, they were able to make a variety of dishes.



Nickola Danilak and (?).

The following year the neighbors pooled their oxen and broke about three acres of land for a wheat field. The first crop produced six sacks or about twelve bushels of wheat. Grain was harvested with a sickle and scythe. Sheaves were generally stored, then threshed during the winter with a flail. Chaff was separated by throwing the grain up into the wind



Mrs. Nichola Danilak.

on a windy day. The wind would take the chaff away but the grain being heavier would fall on the blanket. Wheat was then ground into flour on a set of millstones which were part of the belongings that were brought from Poland.

Nickola Danilak passed away in 1923 at the age of sixty, and his wife Pearl in 1946 at the age of seventy one.

Michael Jober came to Canada from Poland and at first stayed with a cousin, Anton Soroka. He was married to Katherine Danilak in 1908, at Kopernick Church by Rev. Hura. The following year their first child, Nick, was born, followed by the rest of their children in this order: John, Peter, Mike Jr., Joe, Albert, Stanley, Annie, Angela and Steffie.

During the first couple of summers, Michael worked for the C.P.R. in Daysland. After working for two weeks, he would often shoulder fifty pounds of flour and walk home. Sometimes he was lucky and got a ride part way. With some extra cash he was able to buy some machinery and pigs to expand his farm. Neighbors often pooled their equipment and oxen to work the fields. There were no roads, so men and women often helped to clear roadways by axe. The taxes then were only \$2.00.



Michael and Katherine Jober, 1935.

When Polska Church was built, Michael hauled lumber from Daysland and donated generously towards the building fund.

He served as a trustee and chairman of the Scona School district for several years. All the Jober children received their elementary education at this school. Scona school has since been moved and only the foundation remains to mark the site.

Michael passed away in 1961 at the age of 80 years of heart failure. He never spent a day of his life in a hospital. Katherine died in 1981 at the age of 92, after a brief illness.

Nick is now retired on his farm near Bruce.

John farmed near Daysland, and is now retired and living in Camrose.

Peter farmed the Courtney place, and now is retired and living in Holden.

Mike Jr. farmed near Viking, and is retired and living at Viking.

Joe and Albert still farm the home place.

Stanley graduated as a teacher in 1941, served in the airforce, and now resides in Edmonton, selling life insurance.

Annie passed away at twenty four years of age.



Golden Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jober, 1958.

Angela married Ed Narbeske, she is now widowed and works for a druggist.

Steffie married Joe Miciak, and they live in Camrose.

Danilak, George and Anna

George Danilak's parents were Mike and Catherine Danilak. They farmed in the Scona district. George married Anna Mydlak from the Sandstorm area. They farmed nine miles south of Holden. To them were born three children, George Jr., Nicholas and Patricia.

In 1975 George and Anna retired and moved to

Camrose. He passed away in 1977. Anna still lives there.

George Jr. married Donna Shysh in 1965. They have three children and live in Sherwood Park. George is manager for Hostess Potato Chips. Nicholas married Amelia Warawa in 1964. They have three children and he works for Alberta Toy Company. Patricia married Wayne Warawa and they live on a farm in the Mundare area.

Danilak, Mike

by Peter Danilak

My father Mike Danilak was born in Malnow, Austria in 1876. My mother Katherine (Kozawa) was also born in Malnow, Austria, in 1883. They were united in marriage on the ship Bulgaria, and immigrated to Canada in the fall of 1902. On their arrival they stayed with relatives and friends south of Mundare. My father worked for board and room, clearing land for farmers requiring help.

In 1904 they settled on their homestead eight miles south of Holden. Their first home was a log cabin, plastered with clay, a sod roof and the walls inside were whitewashed. They built shelters for the cattle and horses. The roofs of the shelters were covered with straw. My father and Uncle John gradually cleared some of the land with two oxen and two horses and from there on my parents farmed on their own.



Back Row: Mike and Katie Danilak. 2nd Row: Steve, Metro and Joe. Front Row: Nadia, Paul and Annie, 1924.

There were thirteen children in our family. In 1903 a son John was born, but passed away as an infant of influenza. He was buried in the Mundare Cemetery.

Mary married Tom Fraser. Tom was in the army in World War II. There was no official word of what had happened and he never returned. Mary is presently residing in Barrhead, Alberta.

Pearl (Peary) was married to Paul Shyba. They had four children: Stella, Annie, John and Peter. Peter passed away in 1975 and Paul in 1981. Peary is presently residing at Haight, Alberta with her son John.

George married Anne Mydlak. They had four children: George, Nick, Pat and John. John died as an infant and George in 1977.

Nellie married Harry Montaniti. They had one daughter, Doreen. Nellie and Harry are now living in Barrhead, Alberta.

I, Peter, was united in marriage to Maggie Chrystian, and we are presently living in Camrose. (see Peter Danilak history).

Martin married Mary Mydlak and they have four children: Eugene, Carl, Irene and Rickey. They presently reside in Camrose.

Bill, married Angela Hladilo. They had eight children: Dale, Gloria, Gladys, Morris, Marlene, Linda, Dennis and David. Bill died in 1978. Angela lives in Holden.

Steve is single. He is a World War II Veteran, and is now residing in Holden.

Joe is single and lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Annie was single and passed away in 1943 at an early age.

Nora married Tom Chrystian. They have four children: Ronald, Jim, Victoria and Judy. They reside on a farm near Round Hill.

Paul is single and is residing in Vancouver, B.C.

I remember the fall of 1918 when we were stricken with the flu epidemic. Dad was the only member of the family not affected. He had to look after the family, and of course the daily chores. The doctor prescribed one teaspoon of brandy to each family member, but this didn't seem to help, so he prescribed a ½ teaspoon of coal oil with a little sugar added, this made us feel a lot better in a short time. We finally got our appetites back, and were up and around.

In my early days, I used to trap weasels, muskrats, snare or shoot rabbits and used to get 10¢ for each bush rabbit fur, 25¢ for each jack rabbit fur. The rabbit meat was used for our meals. In the summer time I used to snare and trap gophers, magpies and crows. To qualify for the municipal bonus, I had to bring the gopher tails, magpie and crow eggs to

school, and in the fall we would receive a cheque. This was my spending money, and do you know what we school boys did? We would all pool our monies to purchase a ½ lb. of tobacco which we hid in the bush and during our lunch hour we would have our lunch, and each one of us would roll our cigarette, and puff away to our heart's content. Some of us boys got gypped though, because the ones living close to the school were more fortunate, as they were able to get extra puffs on the weekends.

Dad passed away in 1931 and mother in 1938.

Danilak, Peter

I took over the homestead in 1931 at the age of twenty years. It was hard times and money was scarce, but I tried my best to keep the family going.

My first crop yielded very well. The bins were full, but when the grain was sold the money did not go too far, as the grain was cheap. Wheat was 25¢ per bushel, oats was 3¢ per bushel. I had to pay 6¢ per bushel for wheat and 4¢ per bushel for oats for threshing, so very little money was left. Years later I bought a used threshing machine, and also did some custom work.



Wedding of Peter and Maggie Danilak, 1941.

The farming was done with horses and when I made a little more money, I bought a used 1936 (Hart Parr) Tractor, which made the farming a lot easier. I was then able to break more land, and in my spare time did some custom breaking. My first car was a Model T Ford. It made travel easier especially when we were busy and repairs or groceries were required, or to take cream and eggs into town. That car served us well for eleven years.

In 1941 I was united in marriage to Maggie Chrystian, and from then on we worked hard to make ends meet. Maggie didn't mind the hard work at all and she has a heart of gold. I'll never forget the two room house we lived in. Once during the night I felt something picking on my head, thinking it was Maggie I was going to grab her hand, but instead I realized it was a mouse so grabbed it and threw it on the floor. It made such a racket that it woke Maggie up. She asked me, "What in the world was that bang?" so I replied that she better go back to sleep, as I was only catching mice.

In 1943 we rented more land and were fortunate to have a bumper crop. Wheat yielded forty bushels per acre. Marketing grain on a quota system meant we could only sell a certain amount of grain per acre. We were fortunate to have grade 2 wheat, this was the required grade for flour, so we hauled out 3,000 bushels straight from the threshing machine. We were able to purchase another quarter section of land and paid the other expenses.



35th Anniversary of Peter and Maggie.

In 1945 we built a house and later a garage, machine shed and a barn. A few years later we bought a new Massey Harris combine which saved us a lot of hard work, but the happy threshing crews were missed and the good old tricks and jokes they used to play on each other. For entertainment in the winter time, we would gather in the evenings to play cards and have house warming parties.

In 1955, I was stricken with polio, which made farming very difficult. I then hired a man to keep the farm going. We farmed until 1959, that fall our crop was snowed under and was taken off early in the spring of 1960. Peter Chrystian purchased the farm in 1960.

Then we moved to Camrose, and took life easy for the rest of the year. When my health improved, I worked in a service station, in construction and finally at the Stelco Plant, where I worked for many years. Maggie worked in St. Mary's Hospital for a number of years. We are now retired and taking life easy.

Davis, David, Family

The history of the Davis family begins in Durham, Ontario where David Davis was born in 1880. After growing up on the farm, he left home and went to British Columbia where he joined the Canadian Army and departed for the Boer War in South Africa. At the close of the war, he remained and worked as a blasting manager in a diamond mine. He subsequently married a young widow in 1911 and in the same year brought her and her young daughter, Kathleen to Canada. These two remained at the Davis home in Ontario when Dave came west to Bruce where his brother, Dick had previously settled. He rented a farm just south of Bruce and in 1913, Martha and Kathleen arrived. Mary was born the following year, about the time Dave purchased the N.E.-30-48-15-W4.



Dave Davis family: Dave, Mary, Mrs. Davis, Kathleen (seated).

In 1917, the Bruce Consolidated School District was formed. As he lived at the extreme west end of the district, Dave drove the horse-drawn school van, thus giving Kathleen a chance to finally begin school. (It might be noted that these vans were excessively cumbersome vehicles which literally played the horses out slogging through winter drifts.) This school was short-lived, and within two years, Dave and Charles Ham were busy organizing the West Bruce School District. They helped to build the school which stood in the southwest corner of S.W. ¼-33-48-15 where it remained open until 1953. In those early years Kathleen served as school janitor as well as fire starter in winter.

A son, Allan was born to Dave and Martha in 1920 but they were to mourn his death the following year.

1929 saw the Davis family move to the Palmer district. By this time Kathleen had left home to work, and in 1930 she married Otto Hurum.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Davis and grandchildren.

Mary was married to William Evenson in 1935 and resided in the district until their move to Peace River country a year later. William passed away in 1954, and Mary married Ken Brandon in 1963 in Dawson Creek where she had worked for years. After a period of illness following her retirement, Mary passed away in June of 1982.

From 1935 to 1939, Davises lived on a farm directly west of Holden (later the Joe Sroka home). They retired in that year to a small home built on their son-in-law's farm where they remained, enjoying their grandchildren until their passing, Martha in 1941 and Dave in 1950.

Deputan, Steve by Ernie Deputan

Steve Deputan was born in the Ukraine in 1898. In 1902 at the age of four, he immigrated to Canada with his parents, Paul and Anastasia. They settled on

a homestead eight miles north of Holden. Steve was the eldest of twelve children, having five brothers and seven sisters. He received his education at Myroslaw School. Steve took a quarter of land one mile south of his parents' farm, where he farmed most of his life.

In 1923 Steve married Clara Bobryk. They raised three children, one daughter, Ollie, and two sons, Ernest and Nestor.



Steve and Clara Deputan.

Steve and Clara were very active members of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church at Borschiw. Steve served as councillor in the Municipal District of Beaver in 1928. He was a trustee in the Holmdene School district from 1932 to 1937. In 1937 he was elected secretary of the Holmdene School district and held that position until the closure of the school.

Steve and Clara retired from active farming in 1964, leasing their land to neighbors and keeping only a few head of cattle. They held an auction in 1969 selling their machinery and cattle. They lived on the farm for another year, then moved to the town of Holden after purchasing a house there in 1970. They resided in Holden until their passing. Steve passed away in 1977 at the age of 78, predeceased by his wife, Clara in 1976 at the age of 73.

Dorin, Adam and Family by Emma (Dorin) Locke

Mother and Dad arrived in Holden in the early 1900's homesteading south of town. Later they moved north and farmed in several different areas. They moved to town about 1916, continued farming and raising cattle. Eventually Dad started buying livestock, making many trips to the Chicago market which was one of the largest. Enroute the stock had to be unloaded, fed, and watered. He came back via the passenger. All in all it was a long hard trip, and we felt he was leaving this world. When the packing plants started in Edmonton he shipped to Swifts, Burns or Canada Packers.



Adam Dorin family.

Mother was a hard worker and made sure all of us did our share. She belonged to the Ladies Aid and everyone attended church and Sunday school. Many mornings when we got up she wasn't home. Dr. Farrell had picked her up to go out on a call to help deliver a baby or tend to someone who was sick. She loved cooking and must have passed her gift on to us, as all of us are the same. They both passed away at an early age, Mother in 1937 and Dad 1940. Of the six children raised three are still living.

Bertha was married to Al Sanderson who passed away in 1947. She worked for A.G.T. in the toll office until automatic phones were installed, and continued to work for them in Edmonton till her retirement. They had two children; Margaret (Sanderson) Sollberger is now living in San Francisco. She works as a travel consultant, therefore is a world traveller. She has a son David and a daughter Patti. Jim, an engineer with Proctor and Gamble, lives in Stoney Creek, Ontario. He married Helen Bramley-Moore of Edmonton in 1955. They have two chil-

dren, Margaret and William. This year they are going to Europe to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Bertha passed away in 1980.

Eva lived in Vancouver most of her married life, continuing with hairdressing. Later she had a nursing home, and after that worked in the diet kitchen in the North Vancouver Hospital till her retirement. She has one son Gordon, an architect in New Westminster. His wife Karen works with him. They have a daughter Lara. Eva passed away in 1981.

Walter ran the Holden Meat Market till he moved to Bentley, where he had a hotel. He later worked on the pipeline when they moved to Sylvan Lake. He was an officer in the R.C.A.F., served overseas where he married Ann Dunlap. She passed away in 1967. Their son Barry is an engineer with Gane Oil in Calgary. He is married to Cathy Bough of Stettler and they have two sons, Ryan and Curtis. Lynne (Dorin) Laurence lives in Benalto. Her husband Ray has an oil well servicing business of which she is the bookkeeper as well as raising their four children, Caron; Allan, Stacey and Jimmy. Walter passed away in 1975.

Anne married Cyril Roach in 1929. They are now enjoying retirement in Surrey, B.C. Cy played in bands and worked as a beautician. He spent several years with the Air Force Band in Canada and Overseas. Anne was a salesperson most of her life starting with Black's in Holden. Their daughter Audrey is married to Bill McCrae. They have three daughters Kathy and Karen (twins) and Debbie. Anne and Cy celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 1979, which was attended by all of the immediate family.

I worked in the creamery in Holden for six years, was married to Elvin Locke in 1936. He worked in the Royal Bank and the Treasury Branch, till retirement in 1974. That year we moved to Penticton. We keep busy golfing and curling as well as volunteering. We also have taken many trips and tours. Our son Duncan married Betty Robertson in 1964, and has two sons Rob and Jason. Betty has her B.Ed. and M.A. degrees. Duncan, the principal of Earl Grey School in Calgary has his B.Com. and B.Ed. as well as M.Sc. and Ph.D. They run Minute Man Press where Betty specializes in calligraphy, which she also teaches.

Dorin, Adam Jr. by Emma (Dorin) Gilbertson

Adam Dorin was born in Germany in 1887 and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1906. They proved a half section of homestead land in section 24-48-17 where their first years were spent in a sod house. In 1912 he married Freda Nowodworski. Dad eventually took over the farm ten miles southwest of

Holden where seven children were born with the aid of a midwife. The children were Emma, Ed, Emil, Fred, Mae and Albert, with one son passing away in infancy.

Dad and mom were very dedicated parents, energetic and determined to make the most of the opportunities afforded them from the land. The original homestead was the core of additional land used for mixed farming and a livestock operation.

The original buildings were replaced in the early 30's with a large family farm house, barn and out buildings. These were the centre for numerous family and community activities that varied from Sunday church services, ball games, riding events to numerous socials, family gatherings and regular barn dances.



Adam Dorin Jr. Family: Ed, Fred, Emma, Emil, Thelma, Mae, Mom, Albert, Dad, Elaine Gilbertson.

Highlights of the year were in the fall when the true neighborly spirit would rise to its peak. Neighbors would pool their equipment and manpower to do the harvesting, threshing, and assist those who were experiencing difficulties or problems. It was indeed a time for thanksgiving, a rewarding, and gratifying experience, that helped to band family and neighborly relations.

Dad continued to manage the farm until he succumbed to cancer in 1946. Son Fred continued the operation until 1959 when the farm was sold and he and mother moved to Camrose. Mother at 86 is now residing in the Bethany Lodge in Camrose, where she enjoys the companionship of other pioneers and friends.

I, Emma, attended school at Talbot, being the eldest in the family, my parents would take me to school Monday morning and I would spend the week with the Ed Grasdal family, then home Friday for the weekend. Claire Hollingsworth was my last teacher. At home I helped my parents with household and

farm chores as well as some field work. Dad was a good provider, so we never went to bed hungry. One of the things I remember most is dried fruit being bought in twenty-five pound boxes. Mother using her sewing talents, kept us well dressed, and warm with home knitted mitts and socks from wool she spun. She also did beautiful crocheting.

My first job was cooking at the Ryley coal mine, then housekeeping for the late C. H. Robinson (school inspector) and then I worked at the G.W.G. factory in Edmonton. In 1941 I married Bill Gilbertson from Delisle, Saskatchewan. Our daughter Elaine was born the following year. Bill joined the air force and was stationed at several bases. After his medical discharge we lived in Edmonton and then in Dawson Creek, where Bill and brother Ed had an auto body shop. In 1952 we moved to Wetaskiwin, where again Bill was in the auto body business, and then was employed with Wetaskiwin Motors. He was very active in community activities; at the time of his passing in 1966, he was an alderman on the city council. I continued to live in Wetaskiwin, at that time being welfare officer for the city till such time the Government took it over. Our mother lived with me for ten months until she was able to get into Bethany Lodge. Elaine attended school in Dawson Creek, Wetaskiwin and at Camrose Lutheran College. She graduated as an X-ray Tech. from Royal Alex Hospital. She married Walter Romaniuk in 1967. They live in Edmonton and have two children.

Ed the eldest of the boys farmed with his dad, and in 1943 he joined the army. He served in Canada, England, Germany and Holland before returning home in 1945, and was discharged in 1946. He then went to Dawson Creek, B.C. where he operated a body shop, and later drove a bus for B.Y.N. and airport service between Dawson Creek and Ft. St. John.

In 1947 he married Irene Walline. Douglas, their first child was born in 1949 and daughters Sharyl in 1953 and Karen in 1955. In 1950 Ed and his family moved to Calgary where they still reside. In Calgary Ed did auto body work, worked for Safeway and for an Office Supply and Furniture warehouse. Douglas married Linda Kokayko. They have three children and live at Okotoks, Alberta. Douglas is employed with the Calgary Fire Department and operates a brokerage business of his own. Sharyl is single, lives in Calgary and works for a Mortgage Brokerage firm. Karen also lives in Calgary, has an accounting and bookkeeping business of her own.

Emil, took his schooling at Talbot. He served in the army during World War II, one of his postings was Kiska. He married Thelma Bratrud and they spent some years living in Dawson Creek, B.C. and

Grande Prairie. They taught modern square dancing in the Peace River country, where Emil also did square dance calling. They now live in the Innisfail district, where they have been in the livestock business. They have three children, Craig, who is studying for his doctor of Veterinary medicine, Aline, who is a registered nurse, and Kari Lynn, who works for Nova, an Alberta corporation.

Fred remained on the farm, after he finished school and farmed with his father. When his father passed away in 1946 he continued to farm with his mother until the home place was sold in 1959, and they moved to Camrose. He continued to farm, commuting from Camrose till he sold his land in 1974. Semi-retired, he worked at various jobs.

In 1975 he married Mrs. Doris Torpe of Camrose, formerly of Metiska, and they live in Camrose. Doris had three children. Donna is married to Gary Gardeski and they have two children. They live in Wetaskiwin and have the Magic Bakery in the mall. Floyd, married to Karen Kobie resides in Gibbons. They have two children. Floyd is employed with Revelstoke Lumber Co. in Edmonton. Ken married Linda Mathews and they have two children. They live in Sedgewick and Ken is employed on oil drilling rigs.

Mae took her schooling at Talbot, and later was employed in Edmonton. In 1953 she married Alex Navrot of St. Paul, Alberta. He served with the armed forces overseas, Eastern Canada and Cold Lake, receiving an honorable discharge in 1969. He is now employed with the Misericordia Hospital, doing electrical repairs. To this union four children were born. Jason (1956) passed away in a car accident in 1978. Susan (1958) is married to Paul Jean, who is with the air force in Cold Lake. They have one son. Heather (1960) is single and lives at home. Judy (1963) passed away in 1966, a result of a hospital accident.

Albert Dorin graduated from Holden High School in 1943. He spent the next three years on the family farm while his elder brothers served in the armed forces. In 1946 he enrolled at the University of Alberta from which he received a B.Sc. degree in chemical engineering. He joined the international oil field service firm of Schlumberger of Canada, and his twenty year career took him to numerous locations in Western Canada. He held various engineering and management positions. Since 1970 he has been in the brokerage business. In 1954 he married Sally Konshak, and they reside at Dewinton, near Calgary. They have a family of four sons. The eldest son Jim, is pursuing a career as a musician. Neil is in his final year as an apprentice welder. Kelly has graduated as a Petroleum Technologist and the

youngest son David is completing his studies as a civil engineering technologist.

Dorin Family

by John Dorin, Camrose (First son of Adam Dorin)

The first Dorin family to arrive and homestead in Vermillion Valley, N.W.T., near Holden was Adam and his wife Elza Dorin, and children — Adam, Mary, William, Fred, (Louise and John were born in Alberta). The family along with Mr. and Mrs. Eider, left Willenberg, East Prussia, (Germany) in January 1902. They travelled via New York to Montana, where they heard that farm land for settlers was available for free in the N.W.T. (Alberta). They left Calgary in May 1902 for Wetaskiwin. The ladies and small children travelled by C.P.R., the men and older boys by horse and wagon. From here they went looking for land. Adam Dorin filed on a homestead in July 1902, (N.W. 30-48-16). The families left Wetaskiwin and Edmonton in August 1902 to homestead in Vermillion Valley, with horses, wagons, one black cow and chickens. In the early days they travelled by horse and wagon to Wetaskiwin for supplies. The trip took two days each way.

The survivors of this family include Mary, age 89, who resides in Sunset Lodge in Edmonton. Laurie (Lowe) is 77, and lives in Toronto, and John 74 who lives in Camrose.

The next Dorin family to arrive in Vermillion Valley were Adam and Eva Dorin, (big Adam). The date is believed to be around 1903. They were just newly married in Germany. They homesteaded and later built a house in Holden. Their children were Bertha (Sanderson) born in 1905, Anne (Mrs. Roach), Emma (Mrs. E. A. Locke), Eva, Frieda (Mrs. Clifford Foran), and Walter.

Other members of the Dorin family arrived later, dates are not known by the writer. Those who came were the first William Dorin's three brothers: Johnny and his wife had no children. Christian and his wife had one son, Adam (Big Adam) who was mentioned previously. William Dorin (Black Bill), and his wife Minnie (Wilmina) had nine children; Mary, Bill, Grace, Martha, Anne, Emil, Tilley, Alma and Arnold.

First Adam's cousin, Johnny and his wife had three children, William (Turkey Bill) and wife Carolina, Eva married a cousin, Big Adam, and Adam (Little Adam) married Frieda Nowodworski.

The children of William (Turkey Bill) were: Adolph, Emil, Ed, Carl, Betty, Elsie, Walter, Ernie, Olga, Paul, Herman, Heather, Helen, and Karen.

The children of Eva and Adam (Big Adam) are mentioned earlier in the story.

Adam, (Little Adam) and Frieda had six children; Emma, Ed, Emil, Fred, May and Albert. (Their story is elsewhere.)

Dorin, William

William (Bill) Dorin immigrated to Canada from Konigsberg, East Prussia about 1906 with his parents William and Minnie and sister Mary.

His father purchased the N.W. quarter of Section 4, Twp. 48, Range 15, W4.

Names of sisters and brothers born in Canada are Grace, Martha, Anne, Emil, Ottillie, Alma and Arnold.



Bill and Lillian Dorin.

Bill and his sisters and brothers attended Fairview school which was located half a mile east and across the road north of their home.

Bill attended a Mechanics school in Edmonton in 1926 and obtained his license. After working in a garage in Red Deer and Westlock, Bill built his own garage in Bruce in 1932. In 1933 he took over the Massey Harris dealership from Mr. John Holter and sold B-A gas and oil.

Bill was also a livestock dealer in Bruce for many years and shipped cattle and hogs weekly by rail to Edmonton. As well, he had a trucking service. In the early years he hauled grain and coal for the local farmers. Later he hauled gravel.

Bill took an active part in community work. He served first as vice-president of the Bruce Stampede Association and then as president from 1946 to 1958.

He was elected councillor of Division three, County of Beaver in 1962 and served until 1969.

Bill Dorin and Lillian Teske (eldest daughter of Fred and Hattie Teske) were united in marriage in June 1950.



Murray and Keith Dorin.

They have two sons, Murray William born in May 1954 and Keith Douglas born in December 1957.

Murray is a chartered accountant in Edmonton. He married Karen Lynch of Edmonton in March 1981.

Keith is an electronics technician and resides in Edmonton.

Bill and his family moved to Westlock in 1970. He bought some land at Clyde where he raised cattle for a few years and worked part time for a farm equipment dealer.

In 1980 Bill and his wife moved to Edmonton where they now reside.

Eberhart, Daniel, Ferdinand

I was born in 1924 at Holden, Alberta, son of John F. and Elizabeth Eberhart. I remember my childhood days to be rather exciting and venture-some. I attended school in the thirties and completed grade VIII at Adams School which was located on my father's farm. My most interesting and favourite subjects were mathematics, art and oral reading.

I remember trapping weasels, and catching coyotes to have my own spending money. Whenever harvest was early I would go out stooking bundle sheaves for the neighbours in the area for \$1.50 a day. I worked with my father in his farming operation during these years. He farmed four quarters of land

which was all operated by horse power. Recreation during these years was all self-made, such as skating, horse back riding, playing ball and breaking in horses for my father. During 1940 to 1945 I was privileged to participate in the Holden, Ryley and Tofield 4-H Calf Clubs, where I benefited by taking an active part, which has been advantageous to me to this day. I managed to win top honours in my 4-H work and received a ten-day all expense paid trip to Olds Agriculture Farm Fair. In 1944 it was my first year in the Beef Club which left a great impression on the balance of my life. I won first prize that year for showmanship and gained much knowledge in keeping farm records, marketing, etc., which has been beneficial to me ever since. During the war years I was called up to the army and spent four days at Calgary Meewatto Barricks, after which I was discharged because of ill health.



Dan Eberhart on prize horse.

Shortly after I worked as a clerk in Bruce Hardware and boarded at Mrs. Paul Kojosness. Then I helped build a barn for George Giebelhaus in 1947. I saved enough money to buy my first cow and two calves, remembering so well my father telling me that I paid too much for them, as my father brought to my attention that he had sold many cows in 1935 for 1½ to 2 cents per pound and that this would occur again. I farmed with my father on a percentage basis and ventured into the turkey business. I purchased 400 turkeys and with a kind and understanding bank manager, I managed to buy enough feed to get the turkeys off to market at a healthy profit. In 1948-49 I began farming on my own by renting land from Conrad Giebelhaus. In 1953 the land was sold and I

had to give up farming because of a shortage of money to purchase the land from Conrad. After one year of travelling and relaxation, I decided to buy out Nick Hnybida's trucking business in which I became extremely busy. After a few years in the livestock trucking business, it was either purchasing more trucks or getting out of the business completely, so I chose to close down. In 1957 I moved to Edmonton and worked part-time for one year, put feeder cattle out on the grass in the springtime and sold them in the fall. Later on I began order buying cattle for myself and a few friends at the Edmonton Stockyards after which I started a personalized livestock consulting brokerage business. In 1961 I purchased a small ranch at Bruce, Alberta where I raised and finished about 800 cattle a year. During these years I also began showing commercial fat cattle at the Edmonton and Calgary Stock shows. I also exhibited cattle at the Toronto Royal Fair and have won many prizes with these exhibits. During these years the order buying and consulting business became more demanding and I was forced to quit finishing commercial cattle at the ranch, so I turned my enterprise into a cow-calf operation. We now run about 80 to 90 cows and finish the calves from these cows. After quitting the commercial feeding at the ranch in 1972, I started to finish cattle in commercial feed lots, which of course took most of the workload off my shoulders and in the past ten years I have fed from 1500 to 3000 cattle a year. I also handle from 45,000 to 50,000 cattle a year as a broker and consultant and order buyer.

In 1978 I married Mary Sokolski, widow of the late Emil Sokolski, Vegreville, Alberta, and was pleased to gain three teenagers; Dennis, Gail and Wayne.

Although I am extremely busy serving my customers and looking after my own cattle business, I still find time to be involved in 4-H work and manage to judge a few shows a year. My major hobbies are showing cattle and horses and trying to build up a better livestock herd. My major ambition in the livestock consulting brokerage and order buying business has been to be a true competitor and have found this to be very challenging and rewarding.

Eberhart, Ernest, Katherine and Family

The spring of 1962 found us leaving the hustle and bustle of city life to spend two eventful years farming the N. ½ 15-50-15.

For Ernie, this meant returning to the farm where he had spent his boyhood days. How true, "You can take the boy from the farm but you can't take the farm from the boy." Soon Ernie established his own little



Katherine, Ernie, Greg and Kevin.

kingdom of Yorkshire swine and Ayrshire cattle, but his real pride and joy was a team of black Percherons.

For Katherine, who had also been raised on a farm, it meant giving up many conveniences. Hot and cold running water became a thing of the past; fuel now presented a problem in the form of wood and coal; and above all vegetables were no longer grown on grocers shelves, but it was soon evident that a far superior brand came right from the good earth.

There was never a dull moment as the family was complete with two young boys Greg and Kevin, who had their own ideas about farming. Greg started school in Holden. He so dreaded the eleven mile bus ride that I'm sure he considered becoming a dropout even before his first day in class. The thought of becoming a real cowboy and riding calves when nobody was looking was much more appealing.

Kevin an outdoor nature lover, was willing to be friendly with all creatures. He will never forget being chased by a swarm of hornets as well as by an overly friendly rooster. He thoroughly enjoyed the latter when it made its final appearance on the dinner table.

We left the farm in the spring of 1964. Ernie became a heavy duty mechanic with the Provincial

Government. After two years in High Prairie we were transferred to Vermilion fifteen years ago. Greg graduated from the University of Alberta in 1979 and is now a pharmacist in Red Deer, where he married the former Kathie Roth. In the spring of 1981 Kevin graduated from university in Honors Zoology, and is currently completing an extra year in courses of his choice. If his dreams come true the future will find him in the Yukon working on the study of the grizzly bear.

In closing it is only appropriate that we should mention our most cherished memories of the time spent "back on the farm" — namely, many lasting friendships that have continued to travel along every trail that we follow.

Eberhart, Ezra

Born in the Martins district I naturally became a member of the Holden community. Growing up on the family farm I was fortunate to receive the grand total of eight grades of school. The school being on the home half section, most of the transportation was by walking, except in extreme weather when someone would take us to and from school. I had about four years of 4-H work in the grain division, and recall someone trying to impress on us, that we try to leave the community in as good, or better, state than we found it.

I had the opportunity as a youngster to spend some days on the road with Father who was the road maintenance man. It was a kind of picnic for a kid, as



Ezra cutting 4-H barley plot, 1944.

we would stop at a water hole to feed and water the horses and have our lunch. The time came when I took over some of this work. I will never forget the day when I caught my first R.C.M.P. I had crossed a deep mud hole, and filled it nice and level with dry dirt. It wasn't far till I made my turn, working my way back, when I heard a motor behind me. I turned off the road and an R.C.M.P. drove by, turning down his window he said, "Thanks Mac", and made a

speedy departure. The first thought that entered my mind was "I'll catch you in that mud hole". Surely over that hill there sat my R.C.M.P. up to the motor in mud, an innocent trap, but it sure worked. Of course I had to pull him out and direct him to a better road. Nineteen years later I recall being caught by my first R.C.M.P. for a minor traffic infraction.

After working for a number of years at lumber camps, mines, oilfields and pipelines, I returned to purchase the home place, where I still reside. The water well that was drilled by the late Tom Thorson and the late Peter Haugen for Mum and Dad is still giving good water.



5th generation of horses brought by late Grandpa August Miller from Kansas, now owned by Ezra Eberhart.

The changes that I have seen in my short lifetime that amaze me most are not man landing on the moon, walking in space, nor the satellites orbiting the earth, but the change of a society striving for its specific needs, to a society striving for its specific greeds.

Personally I must tilt my hat, and take a bow with due respect to Almighty God, and the pioneers who blazed the trails of uncomplaining hardship, in developing a community such as ours. The portions of the Bible that I've been able to read and study, have been terrific reading. I find them to be one hundred per cent truth.

The farming that I do now, I do because I have the privilege of loving the work. It is mostly with cattle and horses, and of course there must be a friendly dog. So now, sixty years behind the times I'm trying to win the confidence of a pair of three year old Percherons to do my winter chores.

Eberhardt, John and Elizabeth by Alvira (Eberhardt) Boettcher

My father's family has been traced to Russia, where his grandparents John and Barbara (Gehring) Eberhardt were engaged in breeding and raising horses for the Czars Alexander II and III. One of their sons immigrated to America and settled on a farm near St. Francis, Kansas. He married Magdalena Gienger. Their marriage was short. John died of gunshot wounds to his abdomen in a freak hunting accident in 1894.

In 1895 my father was born into a single parent family and became his father's namesake, John Frederick Eberhardt. Magdalena did remarry, to August Miller and to their union were born nine children, brothers and sisters for my father. They were a farm family and had good times and bad.



Family portrait of Eberhardt family in 1945. Back Row: Clayton, Daniel, Ernest, Ezra, Ruby, Sophie. Front Row: Elvera, John, Ilene, Elizabeth and Eva.

My father's closest friends were Adolph Schauer and a cousin Bill Gienger. His uncle Adam Gienger needed help with transporting livestock to Alberta in 1911. He conspired to smuggle the three lads into a boxcar for a free trip; he would provide the food and they would provide their services free. They managed to escape detection by hiding in an overturned wagon box beside a fierce stallion. My father and Adolph remained and eventually bought neighboring farms. My father's family, the August Millers, joined him in Alberta in 1912.

Meanwhile in Norka, Russia, Johaann and Margaretha Giebelhaus and their family Adam, John G., Katherina and Adam's wife Katerina and their two small children, Mary Elizabeth and John A. set sail for Canada in search of better living conditions in 1899. The first year was spent near Stony Plain, Alberta, in a one room cabin with sod floors. They

moved to the Martins District in 1904 to homesteads on the Vermilion River. Adam Giebelhaus my grandfather, put plans in motion to start a school and donated the lumber. The first Adams School was erected where the present Adams School still stands. Here my mother and her children successively attended school. One day after school when my mother had walked to Martins for the mail, she decided that she would like someday to raise her family there. The school became the community centre for church services and social functions. At one of these functions Mary Elizabeth retrieved a rein from beneath the tongue of a horse drawn vehicle and met John Eberhardt the driver, a new resident of the area. Courtship followed, they fell in love and were married in 1917. My father purchased the N½ 15-50-15, the site of the former Martins P.O. and store, creamery and feed mill. All their relatives and friends gathered for the occasion. It was customary to invite a friend but not their spouse. I would presume that someone had to stay to mind the animals and children, resulting in this practical pioneer custom. There was an old log home on the purchased property, into which my parents moved, to begin life together. Elizabeth's girlhood musings thus became a reality. A wedding gift, from my mother's father, a Singer sewing machine, was used constantly through the years, and still sews.

The farm was mostly wooded, so much back breaking toil was needed to bring it under cultivation. The surrounding land was mostly unfenced, so much time was spent locating the cows for milking. Water was pumped by hand for their stock as well as the other cattle and horses ranging in the area. My parents were optimistic and took a positive approach to their problems.

The winter of 1919-20 known as the "hard winter", found farmers unprepared for the length and severity of the season and livestock were starving. My father ordered a carload of feed but because of illness was unable to take delivery. An administrator distributed it to others promising replacement whenever more feed became available. This necessitated daily trips to Holden. Often he got only enough to feed the team that had made the twenty-two mile round trip. Losses became evident in the spring. It was a very unpretty sight of carcasses dotting the entire landscape. The warmth of the sun, songs of returning birds and crocuses blooming on the hillside brought renewed determination to the hearts of the pioneers and they proceeded with their farming with hope for a better year.

Our parents realizing the need of religious training for their children, joined with like minded families and helped build the Evangelical Church in 1922. It still serves the community. My parents, charter members, remained active in the mission of the church for the rest of their lifetime. They have both been granted final release from life and repose in the small cemetery adjoining their spiritual home.

The old log home became less comfortable each year so plans were made to build a new one. In 1923 they built one wing of the planned house, with hopes of adding the second wing later. Illness, crop failures and the depression kept them from realizing their dream.

With the crash of the stock market in 1929, conditions grew worse and the country sank into depression. Mother was an excellent cook and seamstress and managed somehow to keep us clothed and fed. Parcels of clothing from eastern Canada were graciously accepted. Donors sometimes pinned their name and address into the garments and the rule was that whoever had the privilege of wearing the garment would write thanks. I recall a hired man begging to be kept on for the winter because he had no place to go. They could not do this but made him welcome to stay and share our food and help with the chores.

Our father was often away in the daytime. He loved the sports of coyote hunting and he kept hounds and sold pelts. He graded roads until 1943 when motor graders took over. Horses were raised for work, sport and pleasure. Purebred Percherons were Dad's pride and the stallions provided stud service for other farms. My father did not turn to mechanized farming until 1952 when he purchased his first tractor.

For as many years as I can recall, John A. Giebelhaus did our threshing. Hours were long and the crew of 15-20 men worked from sunrise until



The old Martins Post Office and store with Jacob Miller and grandchildren.

dark. Mother served three generous meals and lunches were taken to the field both morning and afternoon. We all worked. A good spirit existed and we always enjoyed the good natured joshing among the workers.

My parents both loved children and we just kept coming along to bless their home. We numbered eleven, however two died in infancy. Grandma Miller served as midwife for all but the last two who were born in hospital. The task of raising such a large family was enormous and many of the ambitions our parents had for us were never realized. Just as Dad was beginning to recoup financially, his health began to fail and continued to deteriorate from 1935, until his death at age 64, in 1959.

After that my brothers, Ernest and Ezra each took a turn at the farming operations. In 1964 mother held a sale to dispose of her chattels, and the farm was sold to Ezra.

There were so many memories here Mother found it difficult to leave. She felt that her bachelor son needed somebody to keep his home and so it was agreed that she would stay. Through helping Ezra she found fulfillment for herself in being needed and useful. She remained with him until 1974 when she moved to Edmonton, where she resided until her death in 1976 at the age of 80 years.

I recall nine children in crowded quarters, playing and scrapping, secure in parental love. Homework was done around a large dining table by the light of a kerosene lamp (later replaced by gasoline and eventually electricity). Running water was supplied by two buckets at the end of some young persons arms. Fuel was basically wood supplemented with coal. A two acre garden supplied vegetables. We hoed, we picked, we canned, we pickled jars and jars of produce.

I recall Uncle Ed and Aunt Christine Gienger and Uncle Gus and Aunt Elsie Miller arriving to participate in a butchering bee. A beef and possibly two hogs were butchered in one day. We rushed home from school. Sausage meat was being forced into casings, fat was rendering and headcheese and liver sausages were being processed. After chores we all gathered around the big dining table for a late dinner. There was always fresh bratwurst. Since there was no refrigeration, barrels were filled with curing bacon and hams. Shoulders of pork were sliced, fried, put into a crock and covered with freshly rendered lard. Late in the fall beef was slaughtered and hung in the granary to freeze and was cut as required. Plucked poultry were frozen and the down and feathers provided pillows and comforters. Water released from the pipes into a housing froze and became our

icehouse which kept dairy products cool during the summer.

We were encouraged to get as much education as we could. Dad said "Education is the greatest treasure you can have for it can never be lost to the elements nor destroyed by man". In their own humble way our parents prepared us well to cope with life, but I often wonder if they realized **how well**.

We, their children, remain to carry on the heritage entrusted to us —

Ruby — lives in Madras, India and works as a missionary for the Oriental Missionary Society. She expects to retire this year and move back to Alberta.

Ernest — see his story.

Sophia — is a homemaker and lives in Edmonton. She is married to Francis Bowsher. He works as chief of non-destructive testing for Western Propeller.

Ezra — See his story.

Daniel — See his story.

Alvira — lives in Edmonton and is a homemaker and artist. She is married to Albert Boettcher, a sheet metal instructor at N.A.I.T. They have two children Arden and Lynn, and two granddaughters.

Clayton — works as a heavy duty serviceman in the oil industry at Bonnyville. He is married to Ila (Nance) who is a houseparent in the Granville Residence for the Retarded. They have a daughter Laurie and three grandchildren.

Eva — lives in Edmonton and works as an expense accounts supervisor with the Dept. of Economic Development.

Ilene — lives at Duffield, Alberta. She married Douglas Henkel and together they are engaged in mixed farming.

Edinger Brothers

The Edinger brothers, Jake and Walter and their families came to Canada from Merville, Iowa, and each took a homestead in what was later known as the Sandstorm district. Jake homesteaded S.E. 28-47-16 in 1905 and Walter the N.E. 16-47-16 in 1907.

Both were married. Walter and his wife had no children. Jake and his wife raised a family of six, Islele, Alice, Lloyd, Maurice and Roy. Ida was born after they left this area.

Walter (W.C.) Edinger was a licensed auctioneer, crying his sales everywhere with satisfaction guaranteed and soliciting a trial sale to prove his worth. Old timers recall the personality and character of this man, most vividly remembering him as the fastest talking auctioneer the country has ever seen. When he sold his own farm machinery, he cried his own sale, drawing people for miles around, who came to enjoy the proceedings as much as to buy.



Islele, Alice, Maurice, Roy and Ida Edinger.

The Edingers left the Sandstorm area in about 1927 and moved to Trail, B.C. From there they moved to the Dawson Creek, B.C. area where they settled.

Jake and Walter are now deceased, as are Islele, Alice and Lloyd. Roy is known to be living at Chetwynd, B.C., and Maurice and Ida are believed to be living in the Dawson Creek area.

Emerson, Charlie and Mary submitted by Mrs. Irvin Pederson

Mary Emerson was born in 1881, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Larson. She came with her parents from Elbow Lake, Minnesota to Bittern Lake, Alberta in 1895. In 1897 they moved to the South Holden district.

As a young woman she travelled extensively. She met and married Charlie Emerson in San Francisco in 1900. They lived in Nevada for a short time, then moved to Holden.

They had one son, Charlie, who served in World War I as a messenger boy at the age of sixteen, and was killed in France.

In 1918 they moved to Montana where they ranched until their retirement. Charlie Emerson passed away in 1942 at the age of seventy three. Mary continued to live and work in Livingston, Montana. She passed away in 1967 at the age of eighty-six.

Emond, Robert and Myrtle

Robert (Bob) Emond arrived in Holden with his brother Andrew in 1909. Bob was born in Selkirk, Scotland in 1887 and had served his apprenticeship as watchmaker-jeweller before emigrating to Calgary in 1907 where he then obtained a degree in optometry. He established a business in Holden, operating it

until 1915 when he purchased The Holden Herald from James Mewhort and published the weekly newspaper until 1943.

His brother, a stone-mason, moved on to Edmonton where he applied his artistic trade to the frieze which decorates the Legislative Building as it stands today. Andrew subsequently made his home in California.

Bob married Myrtle Mumford, daughter of Suddie and Sarah Mumford in 1916. Over the years the publishing of the weekly paper became a family affair. Myrtle became a typesetter and proofreader, and as the children grew, so did their participation in the business. Bob, Jr (Scotty) operated the hand-fed press each Monday, while the rest of the family inserted the pages and rolled the papers for mailing.

As a newsman with a great interest in people, and as a Notary Public, Bob was instrumental in helping settlers start their new futures in the community. He was an avid participant in hockey, football, baseball and curling. As well, his appreciation for drama and music lent support to all civic endeavours along those lines.

Bob was a member of the Orange Lodge, Modern Woodmen of America Lodge, and Past Master of the Masonic Lodge.

During their years in Holden, Myrtle was active in the work of the Women's Missionary Society and the United Church. When time permitted, she also enjoyed the sport of curling.

Bob and Myrtle moved to Edmonton in 1943 and Bob left printing for a time to work with the Americans in the North during the building of the Alaska Highway. He then returned to the trade, working for the Edmonton Bulletin, the Wetaskiwin Times and the Leduc Representative until his retirement at the age of 79.

Bob Emond passed away in June, 1974.

There must be something 'addictive' about printer's ink: Scotty became a compositor, operating a linotype until his death in 1973; daughter Dorothy, also a linotype operator (and now with the advent of the computer, a photo-type compositor) is presently working at the trade in Edmonton.

Myrtle and Bob's family:

Scotty (deceased); married Olive Thrasher who was at that time Music Supervisor for the Holden School District. Olive lives in Leduc. Their children are: Sara, Bob, David, Danny and Elizabeth; four grandchildren.

Phyllis married Troy L. Woodring and lives in Campbell, Missouri; their children: Michael, Rochfort, Illinois, Karen Hutchison, Leduc, Alberta; four grandchildren.

Dorothy, living in Leduc, married John Hopkins

(deceased); children: Debbie Breakenridge and Carleen Oliver, in Edmonton; four grandchildren.

Margaret married Dennis R. Champion and lives in Edmonton; children: Thomas in Edmonton, Terry Heisler, M.D., in Slave Lake, and Nancy Stewart in Edmonton; four grandchildren.

With seven of her 12 grandchildren and twelve of her 16 great-grandchildren living nearby, Myrtle enjoys her busy life in Edmonton.

Erga, (Gray) Hazel

I was hired as a substitute teacher to teach correspondence at Palmer School for the term September through to the end of December in 1955. The regular teacher, Mrs. Overbo was expecting a child. I was eighteen with a grade twelve education. It was quite an experience to come in and teach grades one to eight. There were three boys larger and taller than I, and I was to be their teacher, imagine the feeling!

I was from Viking, and I enjoyed meeting the people of the area. It was an interesting experience getting to know the pupils and the community through school and church activities. The pupils at the time were; Joyce, Lyle and Keith Bratrud, Allan and Earl Hellekson, Larry and Valerie Johnson and Lorraine Hovland. We have remained friends throughout the years and Joyce and I sing in a choir at the same church now.

Ergezinger, Albert and Esther

Albert and Esther were married in 1941 and lived at Lavoy for three years before moving to the Albrecht home quarter where they live and farm now.



Albert, Esther and son Wayne Ergezinger.

Over the years they built up the farm yard and buildings and were mixed farmers, which included dairy, pigs, chickens, cattle and grain. In 1951 Wayne was born and took all his schooling in Holden. He took training as an X-Ray Technician at the University of Alberta Hospital, and graduated from NAIT. He married Ramona (Schuster) in 1974, and they live and work in Vegreville.

Erhardt Family

by Norman Erhardt

Erwin Erhardt was born in 1900 in Neckargartach, Germany. After he finished school, he attended agriculture school at Ochseuhauser. When conditions on the big farms deteriorated, he went to work in the salt mine to earn money for his immigration to Canada.

Erwin arrived in the Vegreville district in 1924. The first season was spent on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. R. Day. The first winter they cut fence posts at Mr. Mast's farm; the winter was so mild they worked in shirt sleeves quite often.

In the spring of 1925, Erwin went to work for Norman and Ella Griffin. That fall the Griffins went back to Ontario and rented the farm to Erwin and Mr. Bill Rempis for three years. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin came back in 1926 and bought the NE¼ of section 21-50-15. They started to build a new home on this quarter.



Norman and Ella Griffin.

Julie Gebhardt was born in Weinsburg, Germany in 1904. She came to Canada on the Empress of France with Anna Rempis and Leisel Weiler. They arrived at Holden in 1926.

Julie and Erwin were married in October, 1926 and they lived in Griffin's old house on SE¼ of section 28-50-15.

In the fall of 1927, Erwin bought the SE¼ of section 21-50-15 for \$2800.00 with a downpayment

of \$300.00. Erwin and his brother Reinhold cleared brush on it during the winter. Reinhold had come to Canada in 1926 and went back to Germany in 1928. He said he would not come back even if they gave him a quarter section of land.

I was born in Vegreville in 1928. Mr. Griffin took Mom to the hospital. He built a rocking chair for me so Mom could rock me while she was knitting.

Mr. Griffin's blacksmith shop was a gathering place for many neighbours with repair problems. It was always a popular place during rainy days repairing and rebuilding machinery. They sharpened plow shares, cultivator shovels and projects such as adding two feet to the swather table.

In 1928 Dad bought a summer kitchen from John A. Giebelhaus and Mr. Griffin helped him build on a bedroom. They built a log barn for the chickens. The hog barn and cattle shed were built of logs with a straw roof.

The time was near for me to have a brother or sister. On November 12, 1930 Dad started out for Ryley Coal Mine at 2 a.m. He wanted to beat the line-up at the mine. Since she was up early Mom decided to make bread, but she could still hear the wagon leaving when she knew the baby was coming. Mom woke me up and we walked the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to Griffin's place. She even carried the dough ready to be baked. It was so early she was reluctant to wake them up but I made enough noise kicking my heels on the porch step that they noticed us. Mrs. Griffin kept me and baked the bread while Mr. Griffin took Mom to the hospital. Walter was born at 9:30 a.m.

Work was hard and plentiful in those pioneer days. Most of the farming was done with horses. Mom would leave Walter asleep and take me on the stone boat to pick rocks and roots. The 1931 harvest looked good but two hailstorms one week apart ruined it. Dad got some roadwork to earn money for food.



Norman, Paul, Julie, Julius, Erwin, Albert and Walter Erhardt.

When I was a few years old, Dad felt that it would help if I could keep the horses on the binder moving at a reasonable rate. He fastened an applebox to the front of the binder. I sat in it with a stick to jab the slowpokes. One day after falling asleep I fell out of the box. When Dad noticed I was gone, he found me behind the binder scared to tears. It was surprising the bull wheel had missed me.

In March when Julius was due the roads were bad and unpredictable. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer asked Mom to stay there because they were close to town. They took her to town in the democrat. Julius was born in 1934.

The quarter section farm was hardly enough land to raise a family so Dad had to make the most of it by selling seed grain, hatching eggs, etc. One winter he worked in Edmonton at a packing plant.

Harvest was always a big event, we were thrilled by the big Rumley or steam tractors. There were lots of people and lots of food. There seemed to be a story teller or musician in each crew. One day they moved the threshing outfit and while they were setting up Mr. Griffin noticed that the grease equipment was left at the yard. I was about 8 or 10 years old then and had never driven anything. He started me out in the grain truck to pick up the grease guns. Dad was horrified when he found out who was herding the truck back to the yard, but I made it back O.K. Later, Dad had trouble keeping me at home because I always liked to drive any new machine that Mr. Griffin bought. It was more fun driving a combine than stooking bundles at home.

In the winter we walked to Griffin's farm to listen to the radio and root for the Toronto Maple Leafs. When the roads were blown in with snow, the men plowed trails through the fields. Mr. Griffin put skis on the front of his car.

When I started school, Harry and Olive Ronnie took me with them to Adams School. Later, we walked across Mr. Eberhardt's field.

Walter and I used to cut grass for Griffins. To start with they paid us, but Dad didn't think it was right to accept money so we settled for freshly baked treats.

We had a battery radio, and our first car was a 1929 Chev that Dad bought in Edmonton in 1938. Our first tractor was a new Massey 101 Sr. on steel wheels.

We had our own car for the trip to town when Albert was born in 1938.

The big event in 1939 was the trip to Crimmin's Crossing to watch the Royal train stop for water. This was early in the morning and we didn't see the Royal Family.

Paul, the youngest of the family, was born in 1941 in Vegreville.

Our water well was drilled to about 265 feet. It would flow to about 30 feet from the surface. It was dug to 35 feet then we pumped the water from there to the surface. This was cribbed with wood and a wooden ladder. The natural gas bubbled up through the water from the deep casing. One day Dad was down in the well to see if it needed to be cleaned out, he lit a match for light. This caused an explosion which tore out part of the cribbing and ladder, and closed the lid on the well. Dad was burned by the explosion and had to find his way out in the dark with part of the ladder missing. No one else knew that he had gone down the well.

In 1944, we had an auction sale and moved to Edmonton. Dad passed away in 1966. Mom lives in Edmonton and is active and healthy.

Walter and Margaret live in Edmonton. They have three daughters, two sons and two grandchildren. Walter is a painter with Alberta Government Parks Branch. Julius has two sons and is an electrician at a sawmill at Williams Lake, B.C. Albert and Edith live in Edmonton. They have a son and two daughters. He is part owner of a trucking firm. Paul and Terry live at Ardrossan and they have a son and daughter. He drives a truck for Astro Tire and runs his own Bob-cat in his spare time. Ruth and I live in Bassano. We have four daughters and four grandchildren. We have our own company "Norm's Inspection and Supervision Services, Ltd." for doing work on oilfield construction projects.

Erickson, E. M. Family

Ed and Ev Erickson and their three-year old daughter Diane took up residence in Holden in 1945, when Ed took over the duties of Superintendent of Schools from Mr. McLean. The duration of their stay was nine years during which time the family increased to four with the arrival of Allan in 1947. The years in Holden were busy and happy ones. Ed's time was well occupied with administration of the school district and with visits to all the schools. On one occasion, while returning from a day spent at outlying schools, he had a rather unique experience. He was caught in what was described as "the worst blizzard in the district's history." Fortunately he was stranded between Bruce and Viking and was close to the railway tracks. An alert train crew spotted him, stopped and rescued him so he arrived home safely courtesy CNR. In his leisure time, Ed was concerned with community groups. He was a member of the B.P.O.E. and served on the board of directors of the United Church. He and Ev also enjoyed such recreational activities as square dancing and golf. Ev also found time for participation in church activities as a



Ed Erickson and Diane.

member of the United Church Women's groups and as a Sunday School teacher. As well she was a member of the Royal Purple.

In 1954 Ed was transferred to Wetaskiwin. The Ericksons left the community of Holden with a feeling of reluctance but also with a deep sense of appreciation for the friendships and happy experiences which they had been privileged to share.

After thirteen years in Wetaskiwin, Ed and Ev moved to Calgary where Ed was Superintendent of Calgary Rural District. Subsequently he spent three years in the regional office as a Social Studies consultant. During this time he served a term as president of the Canadian Education Association. This was a demanding but rewarding experience which involved travelling to numerous North American cities for conferences.



Ed Erickson.

Ed retired in 1974. Because of ill health, his activities were limited and he passed away in 1976. Ev still resides in Calgary where she is busy as a volunteer at Foothills Hospital and Alberta Children's Hospital. She manages to fit visits to her family and some travelling into her schedule. Diane is an RN. She and her husband, Tom Stenhouse, and daughters Shannon and Cathy live in Vernon, B.C.

After completing high school in Wetaskiwin, Allan attended University of Alberta in Edmonton. In 1968 he graduated in Pharmacy and then enrolled in the Faculty of Dentistry. He received his degree in Dentistry in 1971 and now has a practice in Vancouver where he and his wife, Susan live.

Erickson, P. A. and family by Hildur (Erickson) Sorgen

My parents, Per Andreas Erickson and Hilda Margaret Nastrom were born in Langsele, Sweden. They were married in 1896. Six of their children were born in Sweden, the two youngest passed away in infancy. Dad's occupation there was logging and carpenter work, a trade in which he was quite skilled.

In 1903, learning about the call for settlers in Canada, Dad decided to come and have a look around, and liked what he saw. The farms in Sweden consisted of only a very few acres, so the thought of being able to own one hundred and sixty acres for only ten dollars and some hard work was a temptation indeed. He found a cancelled homestead quarter, S.E. 30-48-16 in the Talbot and Vermillion Valley area which he applied for and got. There were quite a number of families who had already settled there, most of them Scandinavian, which made a move to Canada more inviting.



Mr. and Mrs. Per Erickson in 1923.

Dad then returned to Sweden, and Mother and he made preparations for their move to Canada. In October of 1904, with many tearful farewells to family and friends, Dad, Mother and their four sons Erick, Anders (Andy), Jens (Jim), and August (Gust), ages six, five, four and three, boarded a boat for Liverpool. There they embarked on another ship for the Atlantic crossing. They landed at Halifax and from there travelled by train on their long journey to Wetaskiwin, arriving there in November. This train had only long wooden benches for seating and sleeping,

which made things somewhat uncomfortable. Mother and the boys stayed the winter in Wetaskiwin while Dad went out to the homestead to build a two room log house and a barn for the animals. In the spring of 1905 Dad went back to Wetaskiwin for his family. The trip out to the homestead, a distance of some sixty miles, was by team and wagon, loaded up with the most essential things. They led a cow, they had purchased, behind the wagon to have milk for the children. Fortunately, the weather was warm so they could camp out along the way in a tent they brought along. The mosquitoes were horrendous but by keeping smudges going they got some relief for themselves and the cow and horses which were tethered out to graze. After a four day trek around sloughs, bush and other obstacles they arrived at the homestead which was to be their home for many years.

Later Dad went back for several trunks they had brought with them containing household goods and tools, many which dad had made, and many other items they knew would be needed. Wetaskiwin was the nearest town at that time but soon small stores and post offices were opened in the areas to the north and east. Their wares were freighted in from Wetaskiwin. One of the early post offices in our area was at Thomas Kennedys, called Ulster. The mail came in by courier.

The first years saw tremendous hardships to be sure, for men and women alike, but with their stamina, ingenuity, optimism and keen sense of humor they endured and made progress. The community spirit was wonderful. Neighbor helped neighbor in every way they could and were always there to share in both joy and sorrow. Many lasting friendships were formed. Their first summer was a busy one. The roof on the house was shingled, shiplap floors laid, a garden patch prepared and all the other things that had to be done before winter. Dad had a little money when they came to Canada so they were able to buy two more horses, a couple cows, sheep and some chickens so they got their start in livestock and poultry. He also bought a plow and a few pieces of the most necessary equipment for working the soil. By this time their money had dwindled considerably so Dad went out during the winters, building log dwellings for a number of homesteaders, for fifty cents a day, which was not much, but it helped.

The going was rough at the start but by being thrifty and frugal they managed and did not go hungry. Grouse, partridges, wild ducks and fish from Beaver Lake provided much of the food.

A real hazard in the early days were prairie fires which spread rapidly through the tall dry grass. A fire guard had to be ploughed around all the build-



The P. A. Erickson children. Standing: Gust, Andy, Erick and Jim. Hildur sitting down and Nanna 1912.

ings. When a fire was seen approaching, everyone dropped whatever they were doing and ran with wet sacks or coats to try and beat out the flames to keep it from spreading.

One of the real concerns in the early days was the lack of medical aid when serious illness and injuries occurred. There were doctors, but they were miles away and it took a long time to get a message through. To make his call the doctor had to go by livery team which could take many, many hours over roads that were almost impassable at times, especially in the winter, struggling through huge snowdrifts. Often he did not reach his destination in time to be of any assistance.

Five more children were born in Canada. A girl and two boys passed away in infancy. My sister, Nanna, and I, the youngest, survived. Our little sister and two brothers were buried in the cemetery north-east of Vermillion Valley School. A visiting pastor held services in this school and in the home including baptismal and funeral services, until the Lutheran Church in Holden was built. The winters were a worry for mother. When Dad was away the boys had to take the cattle and horses to a slough almost a mile from home and cut a hole in the ice for the stock to drink and she was so worried the boys would fall in. A well had been dug but there was not enough water to meet all needs and would freeze over in the winter. Snow was melted for washing, cooking and other requirements. Later a well was drilled by George Hovland and an abundance of soft water was found at sixty feet. The winters on the whole were very cold. Sub zero temperatures of fifty and sixty below were not uncommon. Mother used to have the boys bring rails in the house to saw up for firewood.

The summers too were a worry. There was a lot of open land and few fences. The cows roamed far and wide to graze and Mother had to leave Gust, only five years old, to look after Nanna just a few months of age, while she ran to find the cows which seemed to her took a dreadfully long time. The homestead was proved up in 1908, Dad got his naturalization papers that same year.

The boys began helping with everything in general at a very early age, clearing bush, breaking and everything else involved in mixed farming. Year by year they saw some returns for their toil. An addition was built onto the house and sided, a lumber horse barn built, and more equipment purchased made work a little less strenuous.

My brothers and Nanna started school at the Vermillion Valley School. Erick and Andy finished there, but by then this school became overcrowded, so Jim, Gus and Nanna had to transfer to Palmer School where Jim and Gust completed their term. Nanna continued going to Palmer until Talbot School was opened for classes in 1917, when I started school too. Our first teacher was a Miss Moore. When the homestead was cleared and as much as possible was under cultivation, Dad bought a quarter section of school land N.W. 29-48-16. In time, fields of grain replaced timber and brush. There were setbacks then too, with hail, drought and frost but they persevered. There was always next year. By then Holden was a village. The road from the south of us angled north-east across our two quarters following the Battleford Trail part of the way. Many people travelling to and from Holden stopped in to rest their horses, visit a while and partake of a cup of coffee or a meal. I recall my parents telling me their first bit of grain was cut with scythes, tied into bundles and threshed out with a flail and the haying was done with scythes and hand rakes. Before a cream and egg receiving station was established in Holden, the local storekeeper bought butter and eggs. The butter was pressed into one pound prints and wrapped. The acres of grain increased, so in 1913, Bernt and Ole Chetney, Ed Logan, Knut and Halstein Fodness and Dad bought a threshing outfit on shares. The tractor was a big one cylinder Titan and they had an Altman Taylor separator. The first years it was all stack threshing. They threshed for farmers many miles away, sometimes not finishing till nearly Christmas. The discomforts they experienced in the cold was incredible. Many of the farmers had only a one room house and several children, so had no sleeping accommodations for any one extra. The crew spent many a night in haystacks, straw piles and even in a chicken house.

Later on, stacking was discontinued and bundle teams used. A bunk house was built to sleep in which

was moved along with the rig. Olaf Chetney joined the company some time after 1919. This rig was in operation until 1927, when a new unit was purchased, operated by Olaf and Ole Chetney.

Among my fondest memories of early childhood was Christmas. There were so few spruce trees it was unthinkable to cut one down, so Dad made one by boring holes in a pole and inserting make believe branches which mother wrapped with green paper and trimmed with clip-on candles and whatever other ornaments could be found. We thought it was so beautiful. On Christmas Eve the candles were lit and we children joined hands with Mother and Dad and went around and around the tree, singing carols in Swedish, a custom brought from their homeland. Another memory I look back on with nostalgia is the long winter evenings when mother sat spinning yarn for socks and mittens, weaving matts for the floors, making woollen comforters and sewing most of our clothes. Dad was busy with his woodcraft, mending harness, tying fish nets and all manner of things, and all this by kerosene lamp.

I remember how we dreaded having to put those long stockings of homespun yarn on in the fall. It took a week for the maddening itchy feeling to leave, but we were kept warm. In the winter the boys spent much of their spare time hunting coyotes with saddle horses and hounds, trapping muskrats and weasels which were numerous. The pelts brought them their spending money. Other forms of recreation for the young people was horseback riding, hockey, baseball, basketball and various other activities.

As children, Nanna and I had to do our part too. Our job was to keep the woodboxes filled, help with the milking and whatever else we were capable of. One of the jobs we disliked more than studying was planting and digging potatoes. An enormous amount were planted and the smallest ones had to be picked. The potatoes not used for eating, were cooked and fed to the pigs and chickens. I remember one spring we were helping Dad with the planting; he left for a few minutes to go to the house for a drink. While he was gone we dug a hole and dumped a big pail of potato eyes in and covered them up, which to us meant at least one pail less to plant. We kept a careful eye on that spot, as soon as we saw sprouts coming through we took a hoe and chopped them down. Fortunately, for us, Dad never did discover what we had done. We had a lot of fun in our own way. As my brothers grew older, those that could be spared went out to work on other farms. They lost interest in this and felt they would like to try some other vocation. In the early twenties, Andy, Jim and Gust went to B.C. Andy became a cook, Jim a hard rock miner and Gus a high rigger. All three passed away in B.C. Jim in

1933, Gust in 1964 and Andy in 1974. They were all buried there. Gust was predeceased by his wife Olive in 1954.

Erick's chief interest was farming and breaking horses to ride and drive so he stayed at home.

After finishing school Nanna went out to work. She operated the switchboard in Ryley for several years, then transferred to A.G.T. in Edmonton. There she met and married Harry Curran in 1928. They had two daughters. Sheila, now Mrs. Graceffo lives at Richmond, B.C., and Themla, Mrs. Limb, in Seattle, Washington. Harry died in 1946. Nanna's second marriage was to Alvie Elliott. They did commercial fishing in B.C. for a number of years. Alvie suffered a stroke in 1970 and died in 1975. Nanna now lives with her daughter Sheila at Richmond.

My school years were all spent at the one room Talbot School, where grades I to VIII were taught. When Nanna finished I had my own pony and rode horseback. One day Erick came home with a little sorrel mule he had traded for, named Sandy. I thought it would be great fun to ride this thing to school, which instead of being fun, turned out to be a disaster. We got going okay, but every once in a while Sandy would stop and refuse to go further. I would have to get off and after considerable coaxing he would go on a bit further. This happened quite a number of times so it took some time to cover the three and a half miles I had to go. By the time I arrived at school the first period was over and I had to stay in at recess to do the lesson I had missed. Sandy was much more obliging going home. The winters were quite dreadful. Our lunches would be frozen and on very cold days the old heater could not generate enough heat to keep the school warm so we had to pull our desks as close as possible to the heater to do our lessons. We would burn on one side and freeze on the other, but school days were fun days, the best years of our lives, I think. The highlights were the Christmas concerts and the picnics on the last day before vacation, which both the children and parents enjoyed so much.

I was sorry when I completed Grade VIII and had to say goodbye to the old school. With the exception of taking a short course in basic dressmaking at the Technical School in Edmonton, working at Eaton's a few months, and at G.W.G. sewing army shirts during World War II for one winter, my time was spent on the farm. My help was needed at home and much preferring the country way of life, I went home to stay till I was married.

Dad passed away in 1931 after a prolonged illness. Mother, Erick and I carried on, on the farm. This was the beginning of the depression years. Even mother nature seemed to go berserk bringing hail,

drought and the terrible dust storms that blew the seed right out of the ground, replacing what had been seeded with weeds of every variety. Those years were not easy but thanks to the many cows we milked and with no extravagences we always had enough to eat and wear. We were thankful for what we had. Each farmer could work off part of the municipal taxes, building and repairing roads. This was done with horse-drawn fresnos and slips.

Before the war there were many young people and even though money was scarce we had many pleasant times with sports activities and get-togethers.

When the war broke out the ladies of the neighborhood formed a group to work for the Red Cross, sewing baby clothes, pajamas, and stitching quilts. We had a great many quilts. We all felt pretty proud of our Red Cross buttons. On September 2, 1945 we were at Mrs. Kennedy's quilting when the news came over the air that Japan had surrendered and the war was over.

In 1946 Mother felt she wanted a change so we went to Vancouver to visit Nanna and Gust. Ken came later and we were married in New Westminster, then returned to Alberta to live on his farm.

Mother made her home in Vancouver until 1951 when she came back to Alberta to stay with Ken and me.

Erick continued farming the home place until his passing in 1952. The farm was then sold.

Mother developed severe arthritis and was bed-ridden for three years. She passed away in 1957 at the age of 86. She was laid to rest in the Holden Cemetery beside her husband and Erick.

In conclusion, I would like to say I am proud to have been a member of one of the many families, who with sweat, toil and hardship, made their contribution, however small, to the development of our community and country.

Farrell, Dr. Samuel J.

Dr. Farrell was born in Madoc, Ontario in 1866. Receiving his primary education in Madoc, he later attended the Ontario Business College at Belleville. At an early age he laid his books on the shelf and enlisted in the N.W.M.P., for service in the Riel rebellion in 1885, being under the command of Col. Steele.

After his service with the police in the west, he returned to Belleville, where he attended the Alberta College, later graduating from the Trinity Medical College at Toronto in 1900.

On the outbreak of the Boer war he joined the medical corps for service with the Canadian army,



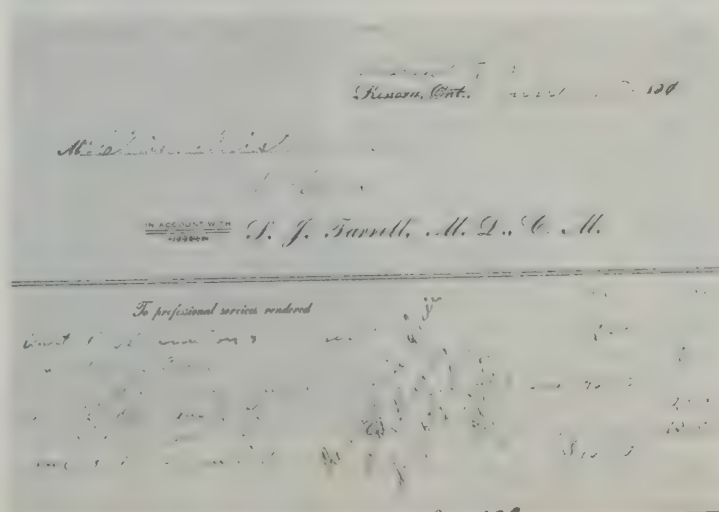
Dr. Samuel Farrell.

and later served with the Imperial forces until peace was declared.

In 1904, he married Miss Naomi Borden at Port Williams, N.S.

He again came westward and supervised the erection of a hospital at Kenora, Ontario, and officiated as chief medical officer of the institution for many years.

Coming to Holden in 1909, he established a medical practice, alleviating the sufferings of his fellow men, in rain or shine, up to the time of his departure. The doctor took an active interest in the business and social life of our community, being mayor of the village since its incorporation in 1909 until his death.



A receipt issued by Dr. Farrell.

He was also chairman of the school board, a strong adherent of the church, prominent member of the Masonic Lodge and Athletic Clubs. As Mayor of the town and chairman of the school board, with the assistance of his fellow councillors and trustees, had the gratifying satisfaction of piloting these municipal

institutions through the years of depression, to such a state as to show to the ratepayers that each department had created a surplus and to be free of indebtedness — a feat well to be proud of, especially when so many outstanding improvements were undertaken.

He had one son, Richard. Dr. Farrell passed away in 1935 at the age of 69.

Faryna, Alexander and Nancy

Alex, youngest son of Dmetro and Mary Faryna, was born in 1917 in the Kopernick district. In 1940 he married Nancy, daughter of Joseph and Annie Skolney, who was also born in 1917 in the Kopernick area. They then continued farming with Alex's parents on S.W. 28-47-16. In 1968 they moved to Edmonton, where Alex worked for the Y.M.C.A. until his death in 1974.



Alex and Nancy Faryna.

Alex and Nancy had two sons, Orest and Joe. Orest was born in Viking in 1941 and passed away at the age of one month. Joe was born in Vegreville, attended Unity School until grade five, and Bruce School to grade twelve. He married Irene Jober and they reside in Sherwood Park. Joe is a sales representative for C. W. Carry Ltd. (steel fabrication), and has three children, Kevin, Troy and Tara.



Joe Faryna family. Tara, Troy, Irene, Joe and Kevin (back).

Faryna, David and Josie

David Faryna married Josie Sawatski of Chipman in 1952.

Being the only son of Prokop, he farmed together with his father until 1964 at which time he took over the farm with its expanding responsibilities. He is presently farming with his son Ted.



David Faryna family. Standing: Ted, Debbie, Norman. Seated: Josie, David.

With the establishment of the Rural Electrification Power Company in the late 1940's, and the great interest in electricity by the farming community, Dave worked with L. VanRuskenveld as an electrician for several years.

The Faryna family obtained electricity in the mid-1940's from Calgary Power. Dave installed the very first electric stove in the entire district (a General Electric) in his family home. The transition from a wood/coal stove to a modern electric stove was a very exciting occasion.

Dave and Josie have two children:

— Debby married Norman Morgan and resides in Sherwood Park. Both she and her husband are employees of A.G.T. in Edmonton.

— Ted lives at home and is an avid farmer and cattleman.

Faryna, Dmytro and Mary

Dmytro, son of Fred Faryna, was born in Austria in 1873. He married Mary, born in 1873, daughter of Jack Faryna, in 1899 in the municipality of Sokal, Austria.

Dmytro, his wife and 2 small children immigrated to Canada in the fall of 1903, arriving on the ship Arcadia. They then boarded a C.P.R. train with their worldly possessions — 1 trunk of personal belongings, 1 shovel and 1 sickle, and the grand sum of 5 cents in cash. When they arrived at Strathcona, they were met by a relative, Tom Fedechko, who took them to his homestead near Mundare where they spent the winter.



Dmytro Faryna family. Back Row: Myrtle, Prokop, Peter. Front Row: John, Dmytro, Alex, Mary, Annie and Fred.

In the spring of 1904, they ventured out to the newly purchased homestead in the Kopernick area, arriving with their original possessions, plus 1 laying hen and 1 cat. They noticed an Indian erecting a teepee. As they had no house, they copied the teepee pattern; however, they used grass to cover the poles.

With the shovel Mary dug up mole-hill ground to plant potatoes. In the fall a new log-mud house with thatched roof was built. Their source of food was mainly rabbit, wild duck and potatoes.

Dmytro walked to Strathcona during that winter and for the following three summers, following a trail that passed through Bruderheim and Fort Saskatchewan to work in the Fraser Flats in a sawmill and brick factory. The pay was 50 cents per day. During her husband's long absences, Mary experienced many difficulties including protecting herself and her children from the numerous large grass fires. In 1906, Dmytro was able to purchase oxen and a plow to begin his sowing.

In 1909 Dmytro became one of the first Board Members of the Unity School.

During a severe drought in 1919, there was little feed for the cattle. The hay from the thatched roof of the house was removed to feed the animals. At that time shingles were put on the house.

The family's lifestyle revolved around the church and their religious beliefs. Dmytro served as a church elder at the Ukrainian Catholic Ascension Church for 35 years, assisting the Basilian Fathers in many ways.

They had 8 children:

Prokop, born in 1900, married Mary Stayura — had 6 children

Myrtle, born in 1902, married Peter Rurka — had 5 children

Peter, born in 1905, married Nancy Bilyk — had 4 children

John, born in 1907, married Annie Stadnick — had 2 children

Annie, born in 1908, married Paul Sloboda — had 5 children

Fred, born in 1910, married Annie Romaniuk — had 3 children

Alex, born in 1917, married Nancy Skolney — had 1 son. (Alex died in 1974 at the age of 57 years.) (1 child born in 1903, died in infancy)

Dmytro and Mary dearly loved Canada and had no desire to visit their original homeland. They lived on the farm with their youngest son and his wife until their deaths. Dmytro died in 1960 at the age of 87 years and Mary died in 1962 at the age of 89 years.

Faryna, Anne and Fred

Fred, son of Dmetro and Mary Faryna of the Kopernick District was born in 1910. As a young boy Fred helped with farm tasks, assuming more responsibilities as the older brothers left home. Hard work did not keep him from doing what he liked best, playing in the Faryna's family band. Brother Prokip played the violin, John the drums and Fred the dul-

cimer. The band was much in demand and played at many weddings and school dances at Unity, Polska and Sandstorm. The young folk danced till the wee hours of the morning, so the hours were long and the pay small (\$25.00 a night).



Fred Faryna family. Standing: Russel, Ed, Larry. Seated: Fred and Annie.

In the fall of 1936 Fred married Anne Romaniuk, born in 1915, daughter of Harry and Maria Romaniuk of Inland. They lived with Fred's parents until spring, then purchased S.E. 34-49-16 and began a life of hard work.

As a young girl Anne was an active participant in Borschiw Parish, taking part in the choir and drama. This she continued when she moved to Holden. She also sang in the Vegreville choir. Fred joined her in these activities. Anne has served as president and is active in the ladies aid. Fred helped build the Ukrainian Catholic Church and serves on the church board. They are active members of Seniors Club and help at the Holden Complex.

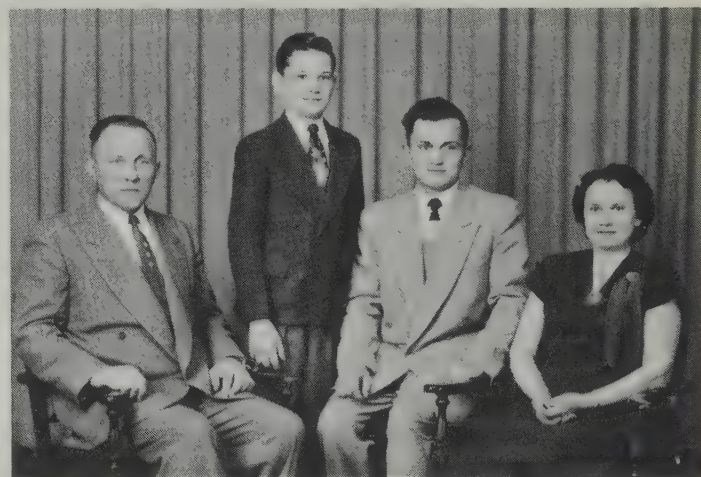
They have three sons Russel, Eddy and Larry. Russel who is married to Zinovia Baron of Warwick, works for the County of Minburn, his wife for Bank of Montreal in Vegreville. Eddie is married to Karen Kittlitz of Edmonton and works for Woodwards. Karen works in the Misericordia Hospital. Larry is a welder with Superior Oil Well Machinery. He is married to Linda Grunsky of Humbolt Sask., who works for Syncrude. They have one son.

Fred and Anne, now retired, still reside on their farm. They have three grandchildren, Tanya and Sonia, daughters of Ed and Karen, and Wesley, son of Larry and Linda.

Faryna, John and Anne

John, third oldest son of Dmytre and Maria Faryna, was born in 1907 at Koperville (Kopernick) Alberta 15 miles southeast of Holden. He attended

Unity school just 2½ miles from his home. John also helped to clear and plow the land. As all brush cutting was done by hand, it was very hard work. To earn extra money in the fall he worked for various threshing crews in the district. In 1926 John worked for the Canadian National Railroad at a wage of 35¢ per hour.



John Faryna family: John, Orest, Russel and Annie.

In 1934 John married Anne, third eldest daughter of Dmytro and Katrina Stadnik from Dinisiw in western Ukraine. They were married in Edmonton and returned to Kopernick to farm. They were active members of the Ascension Church there. In the winter of 1952 he saw the destruction of the Ascension



Orest Faryna family. Standing: Stephan and Orest. Seated: Doris, Dennis and Michael.

Church by fire. John was one of the founding directors of the Bruce Rural Electrification Association. John and Anne have two sons, Russell married to Florence Marko of Holden (see their story) and Orest married to Doris Yuzyk of Edmonton. (See Russel Faryna story)

Orest and Doris have three sons, Stephen, Michael and Dennis all living in Beaumont, Alberta. Orest owns and operates his own structural steel business.

Upon retiring John and Anne moved to Edmonton.

Faryna, Peter D. and Nancy by Michael N. Zowtuk

Peter D. Faryna was born in 1905 in the Kopernick district southeast of Holden and Nancy Bilyk was born in 1909 north of Holden. They were united in marriage in 1927 and purchased their first quarter of land three miles north of Holden in 1928 where they moved. They had previously been living with Peter's parents for one year. Farming was exciting to them and enjoyable. Circumstances were not like they are today, but after some years they added one more quarter of land to their farming operation and made it a viable unit. They farmed until 1973 when they sold their farm to Jim Young, had their auction sale and moved into a new home in Vegreville. They are enjoying their retirement.



Family of Peter D. and Nancy Faryna. Standing: Susan, Mary, Alice. Seated: Peter, Patsy, Nancy.

Mrs. Faryna is a very busy lady, always keeping the house tidy and visiting with neighbors and friends.

Mr. Faryna is a great fisherman; when he is successful he talks about the fishing trips, otherwise he chooses a different subject.

To their marriage four girls were born, Mary, Susan, Alice and Patsy (Pat).

I married the prettiest girl, Mary, since I had first choice but do admit the others are also nice.

Susan married Bill Ponich and both are living and working in Vegreville, Susan employed by the Toronto Dominion Bank and Bill a carpenter. To this marriage, three children were born; Larry married to Cindy Semeniuk and Danny and Richard at home.

Alice married Russell Hewko. They operate a grain farm at Morinville on the weekends. Russell is employed at Conforce Bridging in Edmonton as an accountant. Alice is a receptionist for one of the doctors in Morinville. Their children are Sandra, married to Gary White, and Linda.



Fiftieth Anniversary of Peter and Nancy Faryna, Susan, Mary, Peter, Nancy, Alice, Patsy.

Patsy (Pat) married Peter Shimko. They are both living and working in Vermilion. Pat is employed by the Bank of Commerce and Peter buys grain for the UGG. Their children are Curtis, Cregg and Lisa.

Faryna, Prokop and Mary

Prokop Faryna was born in 1900 in Austria and emigrated to Canada at the age of 3 years with his parents, Dmytro and Mary Faryna.

His wife, Mary, daughter of Onufrey and Annie Stayura, was born in 1901 in Austria and came to Canada with her parents in 1904.

Both the Faryna and Stayura families settled on homesteads in the Kopernick district.

Prokop and Mary were married in 1920 in the Ukrainian Catholic Church at Kopernick. They farmed in that area until 1928, at which time they



Propkop Faryna family. Back Row: Elsie, Mabel, Dave, Prokop, Mary and Myrtle. Front Row: Dora and Jennie.

pulled up stakes and moved, with their 5 small children, 4 horses, 6 cows and 25 chickens, to uncleared land 2½ miles north of Holden. Trees had been cut to make space to build a 2-room house. In 1964, together with their son and wife, they moved to a farm 2 miles west of Holden where they still reside. Both are still active and have no desire to leave their much beloved farm life to “retire to town”.

Prokop and Mary have 6 children:

Myrtle, the eldest, married Nick Kushnerick in 1942. They have 2 sons, Jerry and Bob. Nick passed away in 1976 at the age of 57 years. Myrtle and her sons farm in the Holden area.

Mabel married Joseph Wynnyk in 1948. They have 3 children — James, Linda and Patrick, and 5 grandchildren.



Myrtle, Mable and Dora Faryna.

Dora lives at Vegreville where she is employed with the Vegreville Health Unit.

David married Josie Sawatsky in 1952, and farms in the Holden area. They have 2 children, Debby and Ted.

Jennie married William Babie in 1949 and resides in Smoky Lake where Bill operates a tire shop. They have 4 children — Sharon, Wendy, MarieAnne and Tim, and one granddaughter.

Elsie, the youngest, married Ray Holyk in 1959. They reside in Edmonton where Elsie is employed as an X-Ray Technician and Ray is a long-time employee of A.G.T. They have 2 daughters, Christine and Karen.

Faryna, Russell and Florence

Russell Faryna, eldest son of John and Anne Faryna, was born in 1936 in Vegreville. Growing up on a farm in Kopernick, Russell helped with all of the farm work. In 1956 he left for Edmonton to work for Gaults' Alberta Ltd. at a wage of \$250.00 per month.

In 1959 he married Florence Marko, eldest daughter of John and Rose Marko of Holden. Russell and Florence attended Unity school at the same time.



Family of Russell Faryna. Standing: Greg, Darrell and Terry. Seated: Florence, Russell and Roxanne.

After staying on the farm for six years they moved to Edmonton with their family. Russell is now employed as a structural fitter and welder during the winter months and as a grain farmer in the summer time. Florence is now employed with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Their eldest son Darrell is working for NL Shaffer Rig Equipment. Terry is in commercial advertising with the Edmonton Sun. Roxanne graduates in March of 1983 as a registered nursing assistant. Greg is going in for a law enforcement officer.

Field, Henry Torvald

Henry Torvald Fjeld (who changed his name to Field after coming to Canada) was a resident of Minnesota, son of Mr. and Mrs. Knut Fjeld. He had three sisters and three brothers. One brother resided in Parkside, Saskatchewan, but the rest of the family remained in the United States. He married Emma Morland in 1915, and in Twin Valley, Minnesota, Harvey was born in 1916.



Henry Field Family. Mr. and Mrs. Knut Fjeld (Parents).

In 1916 he and his wife and Harvey came to Canada by horse and buggy, to a homestead which he had filed far ahead of time, 160 acres on S.W. 12-50-15, located north of Bruce, now owned by his son Selmer. Through hard work Henry acquired more land, most of which had to be broken up by horses. It wasn't until 1938 that he purchased his first tractor, a John Deere Model D and a three bottom plow. His first car, a luxury at the time, was a 1927 Chev. He started to build up a good herd of cattle, remembering well when he sold steers for 3½¢ per pound, or \$17.00 per head. He owned good heavy horses and also raised race horses of which he was



Emma Morland, Henry Field (1915).

very proud. His hopes were high although he knew his family must survive the hard times.

The rest of the family were all born and raised on the homestead; a family that consisted of eight sons, and one daughter who passed away at the age of six years. One son passed away at the age of seventeen. The children attended school at Adams, Mayflower, Radio and Bruce. Even with the large family they had to raise, Henry found time somehow to take them fishing to Beaver Lake on several occasions.



Henry Field with his family in 1936.

In 1936 Henry lost his wife Emma and was left to raise the children alone, the older ones helping out all they could. He did this for three years, managing without electricity or running water and then decided it would be better to have a woman help out. In 1939 he married Marie Hammer, who had three grown children, daughters Ruth and Olga and a son Robert from a previous marriage.

After years of farming they retired and moved to Vegreville, then later to Ryley. They still made frequent visits to the farm, but living in town he had more time to do the things he enjoyed, fishing and hunting. He always managed to talk the boys into taking their families to the lake for a weekend. In 1960 he lost his wife Marie. He sold his house in Ryley and purchased a trailer. From here he visited the boys regularly as he enjoyed companionship, and his grandchildren.

In 1968 Henry passed away at the age of eighty, leaving seven sons, eight grandsons and two great grandsons to carry on his name, plus a number of granddaughters.

Henry's way of life set an example for his family to follow. The children:

Harvey

Harvey was born in 1916 in Minnesota and as a baby moved to Bruce with his family and attended Adams and Radio Schools. He married Hilda Kelm of Bruce in 1942 and they lived on a farm south of Holden until 1945. He purchased the N½-9-49-14 formerly owned by William Beeze in 1946. Harvey also worked near Edmonton at Jack Starky's coal mine, for the County of Beaver and at a sawmill near Timieu. He operated a mixed farm with grain and Hereford cattle. Their daughter Carol married Edward Benjamin Grinde of Holden. They have two children.



Harvey, Hilda and Carol Field, 1968.

In 1980 Harvey sold the home half to Ben and Carol and moved to Vegreville from where he continues to farm his remaining land. He now has more time for visiting, hunting and fishing.

Kenneth

Kenneth was born and raised in the Bruce district and attended Radio School. He helped with the farming, then went to work at a lumber camp in the winter for \$35.00 a month. He also worked in a coal mine.



Ken Field plowing with his dad's first tractor, J. D. 1938 Model D for which dad paid \$1700.

In 1945 he married Betty Bowman of Vegreville, and they mix farmed near Bruce. Their family are: Clifford married to Arlene Dorin, they have two children; Donna, married to Rudy Nahajowich of Daysland has three children; and Elaine, married to Donald Laing, has three step-children.

In 1957, Ken married Isabel Furmanek. They began their married life in Ryley, where Ken was employed by the County of Beaver as road construction foreman. Three of their four children were born here. Then they lived in Edmonton where Ken worked as a heavy duty mechanic for six years. Their youngest child was born here. They moved to Viking where Ken operated a service station and a bulk fuel agency for about ten years. He became employed with Northwestern Utilities, and lived in Sherwood Park for a short time before returning to Viking to continue work as area mechanic for N.W.U. Isabelle works at the Viking School.

Their children are Rodney, married to Sharleen Vitek, Angela, Barry and Melodie.

Ernest

Ernest attended Radio School, left home and went to B.C. to work in a paper mill as a young boy. He then went into the oil field and worked in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan. While working in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan he met and married Iris Haugen in 1956.

Today Ernie is a self employed petroleum consultant.

They have three children, Wayne, Ricky and



Ernie, Wayne, Tris, Tammy and Ricky in inset.

Tammy. Both boys were active in hockey and skiing. Ricky took up speed skating, and for 1970, was Canadian champion for midget boys. The youngest, Tammy, is attending school at Ardrossan, Alberta where the family lives on an acreage nearby.

Francis

Francis was born in 1928 and received his education at Radio School. He married Alice Esak of Vegreville, who at the time was a telephone operator for A.G.T. She still works there part time.

Fran farmed in the Bruce area for several years and worked on road construction which he continued to do after they moved to Vegreville in 1957. He became an employee of the town of Vegreville in 1963, and is presently foreman of the maintenance department, and is also a volunteer fireman.

Their children are: Debbie (Mrs. Deryl Abbot) and Brian, and they have two grandchildren. They all enjoy camping and fishing.



Selmer (Sam) and Nancy Field.

Selmer

Selmer attended school at Radio and Bruce. At fifteen he went to work in B.C. Later he came back to farm with his dad, then purchased land of his own. He now operates a mixed farming operation north of Bruce, which he owns. He is a member of the Lutheran Church in Holden. In 1953 he married Nancy Misyk of Holden. They have a family of two girls, Audrey and Ardis. Selmer and the girls took part in many gymkanas, and won many trophies of which they are very proud. Both girls ran for Bruce Stampede queens and won these lucky titles, Audrey in 1970 and Ardis in 1971.



Audrey and Jerry Shihinski family.

Selmer is a member of the Bruce Stampede Association, and both he and Nancy do some curling. They joined the Swinging Beavers square dance club, and enjoy it immensely. Selmer enjoys fishing and hunting, and come every spring, Nancy gets busy with her greenhouse.

Their daughters are both married; Audrey to Gerald Shehinski, a carpenter, and they have a family of three boys. Ardis is married to Earl Chamulke a bob-cat truck owner-operator. Really, it is Ardis who is the truck operator, a specialty job of hers. They have a family of two girls. They still take pride in the farm, and come to visit every weekend they get a chance.



Ardis and Earl Chamulke family and Father Albert at Sheila's communion, Carrie Lynne holding flowers.

Henry

Henry, better known as Hank, married Vicky Cikaluik of Vegreville in 1953. Their first home was a small trailer which they moved every month from as far south as Manyberries to Smoky Lake in the north. Hank worked as a driller for Double A rigs.



Hank and Vicky Field Family. Vicky, Hank, Randy, David, Grandpa Mike Cikaliuk holding Loren. Sitting: Wanda and Rose Cikaliuk.

They started farming in the spring of 1954 on the Hammer quarter. Hank has always joked about starting farming with two cows, one pig, a pregnant wife and \$900.00 in his pocket. Their first child, a daughter Wanda was born in '54. The second, Randy was born in 1958. Their first winter on the farm was very cold, vegetables froze in the warming oven on the wood stove.

In 1956 Hank purchased three quarters of land, Donald Dewart Sr.'s place where they presently live. In 1958 Hank started driving a school bus to supplement their income, and especially enjoyed the regular coffee breaks at the Bruce Inn. Hank increased his cattle herd and operates a mixed farm. Hank and Vicky are both very active in community work. Hank who is president of the Bruce Agricultural Society, has been a board member of the Bruce Stampede Association, and coached hockey and baseball. They are both avid curlers and belong to "The Swinging Beavers" square dance club. Vicky has been a 4-H club leader and has also coached ball. She too is a member of the Agricultural Society.

Their daughter Wanda attended school in Bruce and Holden. She was crowned Bruce Stampede queen in 1972. She married David Chomik and they have a family of three boys.

Randy who lives in Edmonton, is an apprentice electrician, and a weekend farmer, but eventually plans to farm full time.

Jens

Jens was born on the farm with the assistance of his grandmother Mrs. Morland, and his dad, in 1934. He attended Radio and Bruce Schools.

While working in Edmonton, he rekindled the flame of a childhood sweetheart, Doreen Gilbertson, formerly of Viking. They married at an early age, thinking two could live as cheap as one, and after becoming a partner in "Cliff's Towing", Jens and Doreen began raising their family of three, Terry (deceased in 1970), Teddy born in 1955, Valerie born in 1955, (deceased at childbirth).



Teddy, Gail, Doreen and Jens Field holding grandson Clayton.

Terry and Teddy both started skiing at a very early age. Teddy was the Nordic combined champion for cross country and ski jumping in 1968. Teddy married Gail Zuk, and they have one son.

Jens sold his shares in Cliff's Towing and joined the Edmonton Fire Department in 1961.

The family reside on a farm east of Edmonton where they raise registered quarter horses and Simmental cattle. Jens is now a captain with the fire department. The whole family participates in the Lakeland Rodeo Association.

Fjellstrom, Oscar Levi **by Harriet Giebelhaus**

Oscar Fjellstrom was born in 1889 at Fertile, Minnesota. At the age of twelve he moved to Holden with his family in 1902.

While farming with his father, Otto, Oscar met Sena Kjosness, and married her in 1920. Soon after their marriage, Oscar and Sena moved to their own land, W½-31-48-15.

For forty-six years, they were engaged in mixed farming, custom land breaking and threshing. Oscar was a skilled blacksmith and musician. Music for many house parties was supplied by Oscar on the violin and young Clarence on the mandolin banjo.

Five children were born, raised on the farm and attended West Bruce School.



Oscar and Sena Fjellstrom, 1920.

Clarence, who was born in 1923, died in 1979. He was married, had five children and lived in Edmonton.

Harriet married Marvin Giebelhaus in 1976. She resides in Holden and has four children. Darvyn and Kevin of Holden, Brenda (Ramsay) of Delisle, Sask., and Shauna Sen of Edmonton. In 1968, Harriet was employed by the Post Office, where she was appointed the first female postmaster in Holden. She served until receiving a medical discharge in 1979.

Gordon is married and resides in Wildwood, Alberta.

Lorne (Bud) is residing in Holden.

Alfred is married, has two boys and resides in Prince George, B.C.

Sena retired in Holden after the death of Oscar in 1966. In 1979, Sena died. They are buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Fjellstrom, Otto

Otto was born in Sweden in 1853 and Karie Eggen, who later became Mrs. Otto Fjellstrom, was born in Norway in 1861. After their marriage they moved to Fertile, Minnesota where they were blessed with five children. One boy and a girl passed away at a very young age. In 1902 Otto, Karie and their three children — Mary, Oscar and Alma, left Minnesota for supposedly greener pastures — Canada. They arrived in Wetaskiwin with their belongings where they loaded them on wagons and headed for the



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Fjellstrom.

homestead, SE-36-48-16. They set up a tent to live in while a log house was being built. When the surveyor arrived, they discovered they were on the wrong quarter section. They were near the Battleford trail so had many people stop over at their place. Otto was very capable of using the broad axe so built his house, barn, granaries, etc. Some years later he squared the logs in Larson's two storey house. He walked or skied the six miles to the Larson farm. The Fjellstrom house was occupied until 1938 and both houses were still standing (in poor condition) in 1980. In the winter of 1906-07, Otto skied to the Earling post office to bring mail to the Scona post office. Otto was the first secretary when the Vermillion Valley school district was organized in 1904. He passed away in 1918 and Karie in 1938.



Mary Fjellstrom on her 96th birthday.

bought a home in Holden. Mary was very talented in sewing, fancy work and knitting. She purchased a knitting machine and knit socks and mitts and she sewed for many. This was one way to earn a bit of money. At the Holden Fair in 1912, she won many prizes for her handwork.

Mary and Melvin built up a beautiful home for themselves. They also had quite an orchard of apples, crabapples, plums, cherries as well as raspberries, red and black currants and gooseberries. Mary at the age of 96 is at Extendicare Nursing Home in Viking.

Melvin McCallum Fjellstrom was baptized in the Jacobson home by Pastor Eggedahl in 1907. This was the log house Melvin and Mary lived in until they built the frame house in 1950. Melvin stayed with his grandparents while attending school in Vermillion Valley. The majority of the time he walked the three



Mary and Alma Fjellstrom.

Oscar married Sena Kjosness and lived in the Holden district (their story is elsewhere in the book).

Alma worked at several different jobs in Canada and the U.S.A. and is presently in a nursing home in Camrose at the age of 90.

Mary worked at the King George Hotel in Holden and various other jobs before she and her son, Melvin, moved into the Lars Jacobson homestead in 1920. They farmed together until Melvin retired and



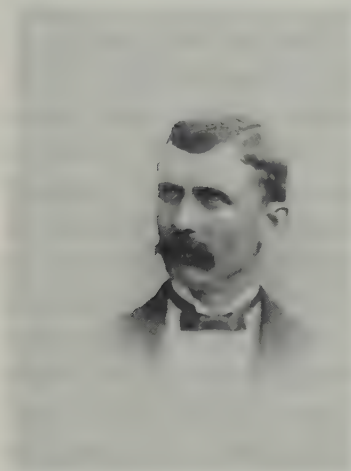
Melvin Fjellstrom.

miles following the Battleford Trail. Melvin and Oscar played for many of the club parties. In 1974 Melvin bought the former Sam Black egg grading station from Mrs. Borghild Chetney, where he presently lives.

Fleming and Connolly Families

James, Edward and Philip Fleming were born near Arthur, Ontario. Their parents, James Fleming and Hannah Walsh who emigrated from Ireland with their respective families, had been married in Ontario. The three brothers immigrated to the U.S.A. along with their sister Hannah, later Mrs. Andrew Jordan. They all farmed in Nebraska. James married Nellie Fitzpatrick who had also come from Ontario.

In the early 1900's James and Nellie along with Edward and Philip perhaps lured by the offer of free homestead land, decided to repatriate to Canada. They travelled by horse and wagon and brought their animals and household goods with them. They arrived in the Vermillion Valley district in 1902. The three brothers proceeded to make application for homesteads. James filed on the NE¼-22, Philip the SW¼-22, and Edward the SE¼-28; all in the township of 48, range 16.



Jim Fleming (Sr.)



Ellen (Kyle) Fleming Connolly in 1903.

Philip Connolly, also from Arthur, Ontario was the son of John and Rosanna Walsh Connolly. His parents had come from Ireland as children and had met and married in Ontario. He came to Alberta in 1892, and worked in the Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Lloydminster areas. He filed on a homestead near Lloydminster in 1897, and gained title to the land in 1900. He sold it to the Barr Colonists in 1901. During his first winter in Lloydminster, Ole Chetney had stayed with him for a few months while en route to his native Norway. Later Ole and his bride Karen from Norway, settled in the Vermillion Valley district, as Philip did also, and in 1902 joined his cousins,

the Flemings at Vermillion Valley and bought C.P.R. land, SE¼-27. He continued to deal in real estate in Edmonton and came to the farm only occasionally.

James and Nellie Fleming had a log house built on their homestead and proceeded to "prove it up" and establish their farm. Doubtless the three brothers and their cousin pooled efforts when necessary, as was the custom with the early settlers. Two homesteads were proved up within the mandatory five years.

Shortly after coming to this area, Philip Fleming left to prospect in the Cranbrook, B.C. area. There are no further accounts of him available.

During the early years there was no Catholic church to serve the needs of English speaking Catholics there. A priest came from Edmonton to celebrate mass in the homes, and one of the first masses in the district was celebrated in the James Fleming home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleming adopted Joseph Massé when he was an infant. When he was three years old Mrs. Fleming who had never been a robust person, died, leaving her husband with the care of their small son. Nellie Fitzpatrick Fleming's remains were returned to her home in Ontario for burial.



Eileen Romaniuk, Olive Rose, Mary Fleming, Pat Fleming, Philip Connolly and Donal Connolly.

Ellen Kyle was born in 1879 in Merrickville, Ontario, the eldest daughter of Frank and Mary (McIntyre) Kyle. Her father had come from Ireland with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kyle. Her grandfather was a Whitesmith, and he established the first steel foundry in that section of the Ottawa Valley. Her father, Frank worked in the foundry and later became a sailor on one of the boats that plied the waters of the Great Lakes Waterways. The family owned and lived on a farm. Ellen attended teacher's college in Brockville, Ontario, and taught in the Merrickville district for a few years, before coming

west to Bowden, Alberta, where she taught at Nisbet school which was closed during the winter due to the difficulties of attending and maintaining the school at that time.

In 1909, Ellen came to Vegreville by train and was taken by horse and sleigh to Holden. She had been hired to teach Vermillion Valley School. In 1911 she married the recently widowed James Fleming and became the mother of his son Joseph. Later Mary and Patrick were born. They continued to build their farmstead, and remained active in the Catholic community. Mass was celebrated in their home many times.

On January 30, 1914, when Patrick was thirty days old, Joseph about six, and Mary only two, James went out to grind chop. A small stationary engine was used to operate the grinder. Tragically his coat caught on the fly wheel of the engine, and he was flung around. His brother Edward heard his cries, as did Ellen his wife, from the house. Both rushed to his aid, but they were too late. He died of the injuries suffered within a few hours. The marks made by his feet as they hit the wall and ceiling of the building again and again were visible as long as the granary stood. He was buried in the Kopernick Cemetery where the funeral mass was held.

Ellen's father, Frank Kyle, of Merrickville, Ontario came out to assist the young widow and took her and the children back to Ontario. After a stay of several months she returned to the homestead at Holden to teach in the Vermillion Valley School in 1915. Inga and Mary Hanson cared for her children and looked after the household duties. Uncle "Ed" Fleming had been and continued to look after the animals and other farming chores.

In the summer of 1915, Ellen Fleming and Philip Connolly were married and they had a new frame house built to replace the log house on the farmstead. Four Connolly children were born; Philip, Olive, Donal and Eileen.

The Connollys were active in the Catholic community, and a room in their house was set aside for the priests who came out from Edmonton to say mass. A set of vestments was kept there for many years. Mass was celebrated in the Vermillion Valley School, and at times in the Connolly home.

Mr. Connolly was a member of the Vermillion Valley School board for many years, serving as chairman on some occasions.

Many of the early residents of the district, who had come from Poland or the Ukraine, were unable to read or write English, so they came to Mr. and Mrs. Connolly to interpret for them and advise them on business matters. They wrote many letters for them.

Some of the Ukrainian and Polish settlers learned to read and write at the Connolly kitchen table.

The Connollys took up residence in Edmonton in 1944 after their son Donal bought the farm. Mr. Connolly died in Edmonton in 1945, and Mrs. Connolly in 1960.

Edward Fleming built a house on his homestead and spent the rest of his life there. He was married in 1924; the marriage was later annulled. He was known as a great story teller and often kept his listeners spellbound as he recounted tales of the happenings in the early years, and his travels in the United States. He was a beloved uncle to the Fleming and Connolly children, and was known as "Uncle Ed" to the entire community. The Fleming and Connolly children enjoyed calling on "Uncle Ed" on their way to school, to warm up on cold days or just listen to stories when it wasn't cold. He was very proud of his team of drivers, and took great pleasure in picking up the priest at the C.N. station to take him to the Fleming and later the Connolly home, to stay overnight and celebrate mass Sunday morning, in Vermillion Valley School.

The Connolly and Fleming children all attended school at Vermillion Valley and later went to Holden High School.

Joseph (Massè) Fleming married Esther Magnusson of the Holden district. They farmed southwest of Holden and are the parents of four daughters.

Mary Fleming went on to nurses' training school at Edmonton General Hospital. She received her R.N. in 1933, and nursed in Edmonton, Daysland and Banff, before emigrating to Seattle Washington. She became a member of the U.S. Army Nursing Corps and retired with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. She later trained in anesthesia and enjoyed a long career as a registered nurse anesthetist, mainly at Swedish Hospital, Seattle. She is now retired and lives in Seattle, Washington where she works part time in an Alcoholism Prevention Foundation.

Patrick Fleming married Ethel Erven of Ponoka and took over the farm that had been Uncle Ed's. (see Patrick Fleming story).

Philip Connolly joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941 after assisting on the family farm. He trained at Calgary and Lethbridge, from there he went to #122 Squadron at Patricia Bay, B.C. In 1943 he was a crew member on a Stranear carrying personnel to Annette Island, Alaska when they encountered windshear, and crashed off the coast of Alaska. There were four fatalities, and Philip suffered a back injury.

Philip married Doris Johnson of Calgary, and upon demobilization from the R.C.A.F. he was employed by the federal government in the Department of Veteran's Affairs and in Air Traffic Control. They

have three children: Gerald, a solar building contractor near Antigonish, N.S.; Dianne (Mrs. Richard MacDonnell) has two children and lives at Red Deer; and Bob, who resides in Grandview Extended Care Centre in Edmonton. Vern Connolly died in 1981, and Philip is retired living in Red Deer.

Olive Connolly attended Calgary Normal School in 1936/37 and taught at Prague School near Viking, and at Fairview in the Holden district. In 1942 she married Bill Rose, R.A.F. of Penhold Station. After the war they lived in Dorset, England along with son John where another son Patrick was born. They returned to Edmonton in 1948 where Bill worked in construction, and later for Canada Post Office. He died in 1972. Presently, Olive is working with Edmonton Catholic Schools.

The four Rose children are Father John Rose, Rector of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Edmonton; Patrick Rose, employed by the Department of Attorney General, who with wife Susan and three children live in St. Albert; Mary Ellen (Mrs. Gordon) Haggerty, M.D. of Edmonton who has four children; and Margaret who is presently attending University of Alberta.

Father John Rose was ordained a priest in St. Joseph's Cathedral in 1968. Shortly after, he celebrated mass in St. Gregory's parish in Holden.

Donal Connolly married Eleanor Evenson of Holden and the couple lived on the Connolly farm before moving to Edmonton. Donal worked as a carpenter for several years and eventually moved to Seattle, Washington, where he became a construction superintendent. He died in 1972. There were six children: Carolyn (Mrs. Ken) Yarnell, lives with husband and three children in Graham Washington; Daniel, employed by United Air Lines, with wife Louise and two children reside in Reno, Nevada; Cathy (Mrs. Scott) Schutte lives with her husband and two children in Puyallup, Washington; John Byron employed by a transport company lives with his wife and son in Tacoma, Wash.; David has two children and lives in Puyallup, Wash.; Donna (Mrs. Bradley) Hawkes lives with her husband and two children in Puyallup, Washington.

Eleanor, now Mrs. George Birch, resides in Puyallup, Washington.

Eileen, after attending high school in Holden, completed high school at St. Mary's in Edmonton. She worked for the Bank of Montreal in Edmonton. She married Fred Romaniuk of Ryley where they farm.

They have six children: Joan (Mrs. Gerry) Stadnyk has two children and lives on an acreage near Spruce Grove; Sheila (Mrs. Dennis) Petlock lives with her husband and son in Bruderheim; Danny is a

rat hole driller employed by Canadian Caissons, and lives in Edmonton; Darcy farms north of Ryley and is employed by Dow Chemical, Fort Saskatchewan; Tony is a sheet metal apprentice, and lives in Spruce Grove; Karen, is attending the University of Alberta.

Fleming, Ed **by Mary Fleming**

Uncle Ed as he was known by in the district, homesteaded in the Vermillion Valley area along with his brothers Jim and Philip in 1902. Both Jim and Ed proved up on their homesteads and made their homes there until their deaths, Jim's in 1914 and



Ed Fleming.

Uncle Ed's in 1931. Philip left the area soon after arriving and never was heard of again.

Uncle Ed would entertain us with many tales of the early day's; about their week long trips by horse and wagon to Wetaskiwin to have wheat ground into flour and to pick up food supplies. These trips were later made to Vegreville. Many a trip lasting for a full day, was made to Round Hill and Dodds for coal.

Fleming, Patrick Family

Pat was the only son of Jim and Ellen Fleming, born and raised on the farm six miles south of Holden. As a young lad he'd leave home in the fall to work in bush camps up north in the Rocky Mountain Area, and out on Vancouver Island. He played in a band called North Star Rangers. Pat married Ethel Ervin, who also had worked in many places, Red Deer, Ponoka, Edmonton and Jasper, before coming to



Ethel and Pat Fleming's wedding picture, 1946.

Holden in 1944 to work at the hotel. They lived on Uncle Ed.'s land. Later they added the Lars Ritland farm and one quarter of Bill McLeod's. The land is now owned and operated by Jim and Garth Fleming.

Pat and Ethel lived at Uncle Ed's until 1975 when they moved to the McLeod quarter where they lived until Pat passed away in 1977, the result of a massive heart attack. Ethel continued to live there until 1980 when she bought the Sanderson house and moved to town. She has been very active in Royal Purple, church work and Calorie Counters.

There were six children born to this union. Jim the eldest, is an Edmonton City Police, and a farmer. He is married to Jeanette Thibeault of Cranbrook, B.C. They have two girls and two boys, and live in Edmonton. Garth is married to Darlene Helfrich. They have two girls and farm. Dana is a graduate of



Sitting: Pat and Ethel Fleming. Standing: Dawn, Wayne, Garth, Jim, Heather and Dana.

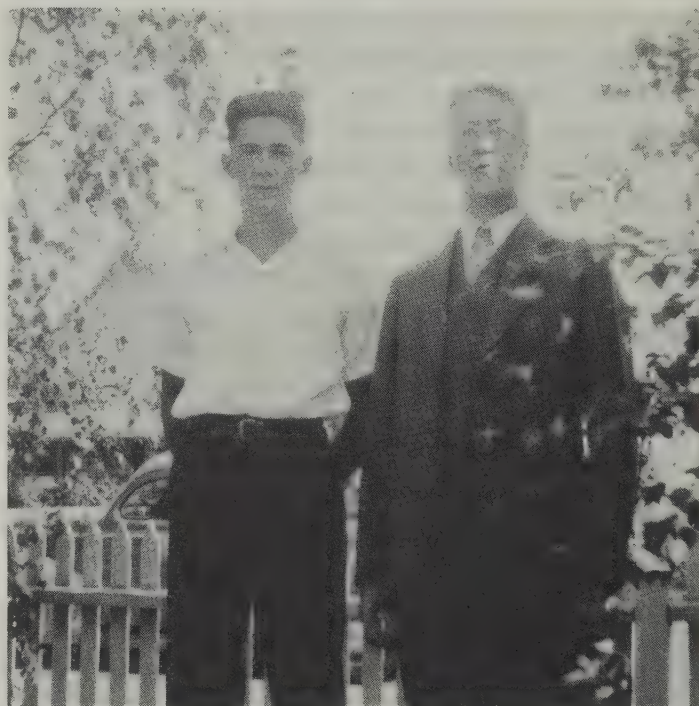
the Royal Alexandra Hospital and is married to Doug Barlund of Eckville. They have two boys and a girl and live at Penhold. Wayne works in a mine in Grande Cache and is married to Paddy O'Brien. They have three girls and a boy. Heather does office work in Edmonton, has two sons, and is married to John Hansen. Dawn who also works in an office, is married to Doug Sanderson. They have a daughter.

Fleming, William Family

by R. W. Fleming, M.D.

My grandparents, Wm. Edgar Fleming and his wife Sarah, came to Holden in about 1911. My father Wm. John Fleming, was a teen-ager then and lived in Holden with them. Wm. Edgar built the Holden Hotel and ran it until 1919, when he sold it to Even Olsen. My grandfather moved next to Marwayne, Alberta, where he built the Marwayne Hotel and ran it for a number of years before returning to Edmonton where he died.

My father subsequently joined the Royal Bank



W. J. (Bill) Fleming and son Raymond, 1939.

and in 1928 was moved to Holden, where we lived until 1944. We moved temporarily into the house later owned by John Thieme, near the schoolyard. Subsequently we moved into the "bank house" where we stayed during our time in Holden. There were five children in our family, Marion (Minns), Victoria, myself (Banff), Noreen (Miller), Calgary, Wilma Lozeron, (Edmonton) and Betty (Carr), Edmonton. We all took our schooling in Holden.

My father was a very active community worker in

Holden and when it came time to leave had to devote a whole day to resigning from various organizations. He held many offices in the Masonic Lodge, was long time president of the Gas Line Hockey League, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, secretary-treasurer of the United Church, School trustee etc.

The following are some people I recall from my growing up years:

Bill Boyd

Bill Boyd long time butcher in Holden — probably came in the '20's, and finally retired in the early '40's to Calgary. His shop with its sawdust covered floor was a popular stop for us kids, as he was a pretty soft touch for a kid looking longingly at the wiener bin.

George Shieman

This man near qualifies for sainthood. He organized, directed, coached, etc., our boys' group all through the 30's. He hauled us around winter and summer and no one in Holden ever contributed a nickel to expenses.

Tom and Betty White

Tom White was a long time mayor of Holden and his wife Betty worked in his office. Tom was Holden's lawyer for many years, probably through the



Tom and Betty White, 1937.

twenties, thirties and early forties. He was a colorful character, with a great store of stories of his adventures in W.W.I. He was a gun collector and his house was full of rifles and revolvers of all descriptions. He was a very good shot and practiced behind his house by the hour. He also liked to speed in his car and always held the speed record on the gravel road between Holden and Edmonton. One of his favorite stories was when he was going 95 miles an hour down a California freeway in the 30's when he was overtaken by a car full of negro boys. One of them leaned out the window and shouted at him, "What's the matter, boss — you having engine trouble?" as they roared away.

Olive Thrasher

Olive Thrasher deserves a lot of credit for her musical inspiration of many Holden kids in the 30's and 40's. We were fortunate to have Merle Forsythe for the lead singer, a local girl who took first prize every time she entered a musical festival and Nick Grycan who also had a very superior voice. Merle was later the mother of Melody Greer who gained a Canadian reputation for her singing.

Forgan, Arthur, Herbert, George

Herbert Forgan was born on an estate called Sunnobraes in the County of Fyfe, in Scotland in 1883. He enlisted in the American Navy in 1904 and served for eight years.



Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Forgan.

Herbert came to Poe and bought the homestead from his brother, James Forgan, who then went back to Scotland. He married Jessie Elizabeth Shaw in 1912 and they have two children, James Harry born in 1914 and Florence Elizabeth in 1920. In 1939 Herbert bought the Poe Store, then located north of the railroad track and moved it to where it stands today.

Harry married Ann Chupka in 1940. In 1942 they moved to Edmonton where they both worked at Aircraft Repair until the end of the war. Harry then went to work at General Tenning Co. as a welder, then worked with the same firm as an estimator until his death in 1965.

Ann and Harry had two children, Ann Elaine (Mrs. Gary Burns) born in 1945, who has two children, Jason and Christa. They live in St. Albert. Elaine works for an Edmonton law firm. Marilyn Fay, born in 1955, is a Respiratory Technologist at the Charles Cammell Hospital.



James Harry Forgan, six years old.

Florence Forgan married George Roth of Tofield in 1944. They have two children, Allan born in 1945, and Linda in 1948 who died as an infant. Florence died in childbirth a few hours after the birth of her daughter. George Roth passed away in 1963. Allan makes his home in Edmonton.

Forre, Peder by Sherman Forre

It was perhaps the lure of seeing another country that brought Peder Forre to Newman Grove, Nebraska from Norway in 1888 at the age of 22 years. He was born on March 16, 1866 in Forresfjorden, Haugesund, Norway. In 1894 he married Emma As-selina Johnson whose parents came to the U.S.A. from Norway some years earlier.

In March, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Peder Forre, with their 5 children, Ferdinand (Fernie), Lewis, Gunda, Mabel and Sena, arrived in western Canada to have a look at what might be their future home. They stopped with George Hovland who lived in the south Holden district, later to become the Palmer School District No. 1204. In the early 1900's good undeveloped farm land was available in Alberta at a much more reasonable cost compared to Nebraska. With this in mind, Peder Forre purchased the N½ of 35-47-17, located approximately 15 miles south and west of Holden.



Peder and Emma Forre with children Lewis, Gunda, Mabel and Ferdinand, 1902.

The winter of 1906-07 had been a hard one and left conditions generally very depressed. Following the death of their infant daughter, Sena, the Forres returned to Nebraska in the autumn of 1907.

In March of 1913, with 2 additional members to the family, Emma and Sherman, they decided to give western Canada another try. This time they made the Armena district their base on a rented farm while the half-section of land in the Holden district was fenced,

a few acres cleared of brush and broken and the minimum of essential buildings erected. The Forres travelled by rail from Newman Grove, Nebraska to Armena with their worldly possessions limited to farm implements, 4 horses, a dozen hens and a couple of roosters, and household furniture. Luxury items were a two-seater democrat buggy and a single-seater (convertible from wheels to snow-runners) top buggy. The top buggy found its way to the Stan Reynold's Museum in Wetaskiwin and may still be on exhibit there.

In mid-1914 the move from Armena to Holden took place and the Forres made a granary do as their living quarters while a new house was being built. It was a particularly wet summer and the mosquitoes virtually took over outdoor life. Smudges were an around-the-clock necessity for both man and beast. The story has been told of a team of oxen driven by Hans Huseby and Peder Forre bolting into Salt Lake to get away from the mosquitoes. The animals were later located on a farm quite some distance from the lake. All this was a part of a day's work in collecting the mail at the Earling Post Office for the families who lived in the central-south Palmer School district.

Much of the work in the clearing of land of trees and underbrush had to be done during the winter months. This entailed removing the snow by shovel from the roots of trees and bush. By the spring of 1914, 10 acres were ready for planting and that autumn a crop of oats was cut with a binder, stooked and later stacked in readiness for threshing after the first snowfall by Chris Afseth with his steam engine threshing outfit.

Each successive year a few acres were cleared of brush, grubbed, broken and readied for cultivation. In the early '20's, when because of a rheumatic condition, Peder gave up farming and at that time roughly 100 acres were planted to crop. Towler, the youngest Forre son and the only Canadian born, took over farming operations in 1931. With the exception of a few acres making up the home site, the whole half-section is now under cultivation.

Pioneering and rearing a young family carried untold worries and anxiety. The nearest doctor was at Holden some 15 miles distant. Doctor S. J. Farrell was a dearly beloved person in the district. Indeed, only a very severe blizzard would prevent him from driving with his team of horses and cutter to rural homes to attend the sick.

Although the farm chores were a shared responsibility, the work load for mother was excessive. Nothing was convenient and simply done in those days, except work, and work you must if you were to make ends meet. The water for the family laundry and bathing had to be carried from the well to the



Sherman Forre with his pet rooster "Barney" who came to Alberta with the Forre family — 1913.

kitchen stove for boiling. In the summer time nature provided the drying process, but in the cold winter, this had to be done indoors, wherever space could be found around the cook stove and heater. Washing machines were hand powered, and bulky items like bedding were washed in tubs. Butter was made in a hand operated churn. Meats were cured for summer consumption and an ice pit was made during the winter months for storing milk, cream, butter and other perishables. The ice pits in the district were also expected to yield a chunk of ice to make ice cream for the picnic at the close of the school term. Added to these standard household duties was the job of milking cows (by hand), separating milk, caring for the chickens, hogs, cows and horses. With an ailing husband, who was virtually bedridden for 10 years prior to his death in 1934, Mother's day was indeed a long and tiring one. Luckily, she was ably assisted by my sister, Emma, in caring for Dad.

There are, however, some very happy and precious memories of our early days in the Palmer School District. Most important of all is that we were blessed with a wonderful mother and father who gave their all in the hope the burden of their children would be a lighter one. Added to this, too, were the many fine neighbors that was our good fortune to have. Friendships were close and deep-rooted. The principal annual community functions, in which most everyone participated, were the Christmas concert and the school picnic. It was always such a joy to share the happiness of the festive season with parents and friends.

Most members of the Peder Forre family spent their lifetime not too distant from the Palmer district. Towler still lives on the home farm and was actively engaged in farming until 1982, when he placed the farm on which he was born, on a rental arrangement.

After a lingering illness, Peder Forre passed away

in 1934, followed by his wife, Emma, in 1951 in her 76th year.

Fernie farmed in the Holden and Ryley areas most of his working days. He married Anna Marie Steffan. Their 2 sons, Clifford and Harvey, live in Ryley and Camrose respectively. Fernie passed away in 1966. His widow, Anna, makes her home in Camrose.

Lewis farmed in the Bawlf district. He married Clara Hovland in 1925 and had a family of 3 sons, Chester of Bawlf, Ernest of Calgary and Leroy of Ohaton. On retirement from farming in 1969, Lewis and Clara moved to Camrose where Clara continues to reside. Lewis passed away in 1981.

Gunda married Chris Hovland in 1923. They had a family of 3 sons, Rueben and Raymond (twins), and Glen. Rueben now lives south of Holden, Raymond in Gleichen and Glen in Delburne. Gunda passed away in 1927 and Chris in 1974.

Mabel married Martin Meadahl in 1923. They had a family of 3 sons and 2 daughters. Ruby Sorensen, Camrose, Gordon of Bawlf, Dennis of Camrose, Ardis Peterson, Camrose, and Douglas of Sherwood Park. Martin Meadahl passed away in 1965. Mabel makes her home with her daughter Ruby in Camrose.

Emma was married to Joseph Knudson in 1943 and they continue to live on their farm, "The Joem Farm", south of Ryley.

Sherman joined the Royal Bank of Canada in Holden in 1929. After 43 years of service, including 4 years in the Canadian Army during the Second World War, he retired on pension from Nassau, Bahamas in 1972.

During his employment with the Royal Bank he worked in Alberta, Montreal, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Nassau, Bahamas and Jamaica. As an Inspector of branches for several years he travelled extensively in Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, the Ottawa Valley, South America, Central America and the Caribbean area. He now resides in Camrose.

Gabrysh, Steve

I was born in 1919 to John and Julia Gabrysh, one of eight children. I completed my primary and high school in Hafford, Saskatchewan, then completed Normal School in Saskatoon graduating with an interim 1st class certificate. My first school was Belbutte, Saskatchewan, then Yellow Creek. The army called in 1941 and the following year I joined active service. After several camps in Canada I went overseas to England for the duration of the war. After my discharge from the army I went back to teaching and then the following year I took a machinist course. In 1948 I was hired by Wymans at Kindersley, Saskatchewan to operate their machine shop,



Steve Gabrysh family.

and then the following year I bought my own shop. I married Alice Daubert in 1949. Don was born in 1950, Deanna the following year and Debra in 1958. In 1952 I sold my shop in Kindersley and bought a garage in Coleville, Saskatchewan which I operated until 1968 when I bought a farm from Joe Balog north of Holden. Two years later I purchased the farm of Mr. John Misyk. We farmed for eleven years and then sold to Ken Mueller and moved to Kelowna where we reside at present.

Daughter Deanna married Wayne Schuller in 1970 in Coleville, Saskatchewan where Wayne worked in the oil field. They have two sons, Darin born in 1971 and Derek in 1973. They moved to Wainwright in 1973 where Wayne operated his own power tong business. In 1976 he sold out and purchased a farm from Charlie Mathews near Holden, where they are at the present time. Wayne is also employed by Alberta Wheat Pool.

Don purchased a farm across the road from me from John Howrish and then married Betty Ann, daughter of Mike and Ann Komarnisky. He has since been moving around, employed by Mohawk Oil in various capacities, now managing a service station in Kelowna, B.C.

Debra married Rick Kemp of Edmonton in 1978 and they reside in Beaumont, Alberta where Debra is employed by the Alberta Government.

Gaudet, Edmund

Edmund J. and Mildred Gaudet were born in Prince Edward Island.

They arrived in Bruce, Alberta, coming from Saskatchewan in 1927 where Mr. Gaudet was C.N.R. station agent. There were three children — Jean, Pat and Ted — later three more children were born in the Viking Hospital. These were Roger, Melvin and Alan.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaudet moved to Holden in 1944 where Mr. Gaudet was C.N.R. agent until he retired from the railroad in 1956.

Mrs. Gaudet passed away in 1950.

Mr. Gaudet went to Edmonton in 1956 and worked at the Army and Navy Store in south Edmonton from 1957 until about 1975 or 1976.

Mr. Gaudet passed away in 1981 at the age of 90.

The children are now located as follows:

Jean (Mrs. Bellevance) in Montreal, has two children.

Pat Gaudet is in Edmonton, and has five children.

Ted Gaudet lives in Australia and has four children.

Roger Gaudet of Prince George, B.C. has five children.

Melvin Gaudet of Vancouver has three children.

Alan Gaudet lives in Edmonton and has three children.

Gaunt, James

by Mary (Gaunt) Deckman

Mr. and Mrs. James Gaunt with their children Mary, Peter, Ellen, Ignatius, Frank and Austin, arrived in Edmonton, from Kinkora, Ontario in the spring of 1917. They moved to Holden the following spring to what was known as the Drowney place; 320 acres with a large home and other buildings.

Twins, Jerry and Bill were born in 1919. Mary, Peter, Ellen and Ignatius attended Fairview School. Some of the neighbors I recall were Nohrs, Sizers, Holdens and Dorins. The Phil Connolly family and Ed Flemings became our fast, and continue to be, friends.

The family left Holden for Daysland before settling in the Peace River country at Sylvester, Alberta in 1928.

Ellen and I took nurses training at the General Hospital in Edmonton. I had positions at St. Mary's Hospital and at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. In 1928 I went to New York City where I did special nursing.

I was married to Russell Deckman in 1931. We lived in Great Neck, New York until 1948, when we moved to Corning, California. There we owned a ten acre olive grove; a most enjoyable period, until we



Mr. and Mrs. James Gaunt (1948).

grew older and found the work too much. We moved to Paradise, California in 1976, and enjoy living in a mobile home park for retired people. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1981.

Frank Gaunt and his family live at Parksville, B.C. Sr. Ellen Kae is at Our Lady of Mercy Convent, Burnaby, B.C.

Geeson, Reverend J. R.

by Dorothy (Geeson) Bateman

Reverend J. R. Geeson and his wife Bertha lived in Holden from 1942 to 1947. Reverend Geeson was



Rev. J. R. and Mrs. Geeson (1943).

Minister of the Holden Charge serving the United Church of Canada at Holden, Ryley and Bruce. They lived in the old manse down the street from the church. While he was in Holden he became president of the Alberta Conference.

A child Eileen, now Mrs. Albert Hogge, now lives in Edmonton. She lived in Holden for a few months during the war, when her husband served in the armed services. She taught in Gladstone School.

I, Dorothy, am now Mrs. R. M. Bateman. Due to an accident during my final months of nurse's training, I couldn't complete my courses, so lived with my parents in Holden. I was employed at the Royal Bank until I could return to the U. of A. Hospital in 1943 to complete my training. Later, I attended university and obtained a B.Sc. I worked with V.O.N. before marrying in 1948 (See Richard Bateman story). While in Holden I helped with the church, with Sunday School, and led a junior choir.

Gladys, Mrs. George Switzer has lived at Etobecoke, Ontario since 1945.

Gibson, Arthur Henry and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Henry Gibson and children, Arthur Leighton, Ernest Henry, David Jeffery, and Esther came to Alberta from Pennsylvania in 1918 and purchased a half section of C.P.R. land eight and one half miles south of Holden on which a house and barn had been constructed. He and his sons cleared and broke the land and farmed it for several years until it was taken over by son Arthur, commonly known as Leigh.

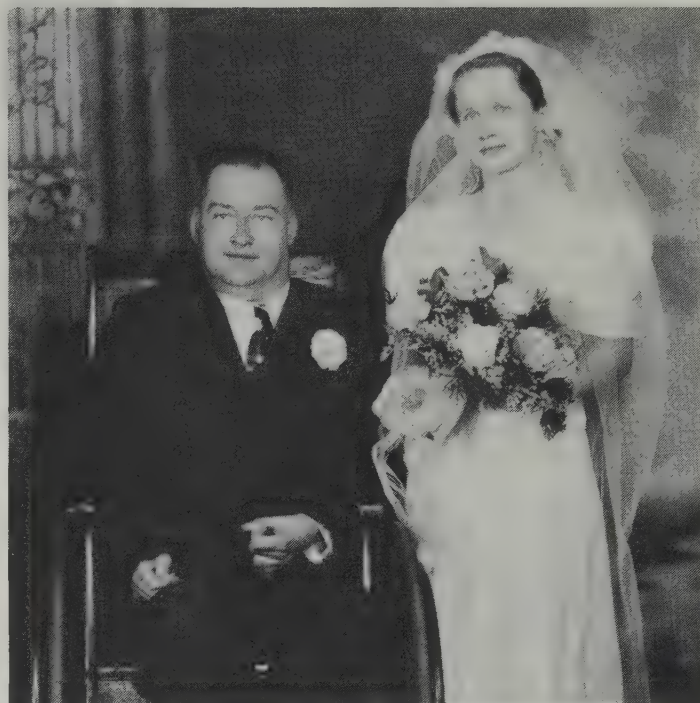


Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gibson.

Esther Gibson married Ernie Pederson in 1929, and the couple farmed with Ernie's brother Johnny in Chauvin-Ribstone area of Alberta.

In the late 1930's Ernest Gibson took a homestead near Malaig, Alberta, then joined the armed forces during the Second World War and served overseas.

In 1942 David Gibson married Hattie Miller and moved to Wainwright, where he served as a Commissioner of Oaths and an accountant.



David and Hattie Gibson (1942).

Arthur Henry Gibson and his wife decided to retire, and in 1944 moved to Wainwright where they resided until their passing.



Leigh and Alma Gibson's wedding picture (1935).

In 1935, Leigh Gibson married Alma Louise Koetke, built a house on the farm, and continued to operate the farm. They had four sons, Arthur W., David F., Charles L. and Alfred F. They all attended Holden School. Leigh was a councillor from 1938-1944 in the Municipal District of Oak Park. He again took office in 1956 as councillor for the County of Beaver No. 9 and held this position until 1971. In 1958 he was put on the Board of Education for the



Leigh Gibson family: Arthur, David, Grandpa Gibson, Charles, Leigh, Alfred and Alma.

County as well and continued until his retirement in public office in 1971. During the years he was very active in bringing about the many changes and improvements regarding roads, education, hospitals, telephone and welfare of the people in his area. In 1974 Leigh retired to live in Vialta Lodge in Viking. There he lived until his passing in 1981.



The David Gibson family: Lana, David (holding nephew Travis), Kathy, Margaret and Ruth.

In 1966 David married Margaret Molhoek and moved to B.C. They returned to Alberta in 1980 with their daughters Lana, Ruth, and Katherine.

In 1969 Charles lost his life in a tragic farm accident. Alma died one year later.

Arthur had purchased the Krueger farm in 1964 and married Betty Dawkin in 1971, and is currently living there. They have four children, June, Leonard, Louise and Barbara.

Alfred married Eva Ewert in 1973 and lived on the farm until 1979 when they moved into Holden and took a job with the town.

Giebelhaus, Adam and Anna Katharina by Katharine Dennington

My parents Adam and Anna Katharina (nee Wacker) Giebelhaus came to Canada in the year 1899. Grandfather George Giebelhaus and his other son John and only daughter Katherine Kay also came. The latter is the lone survivor of that group.

They lived in the Stony Plain vicinity for several years. Three girls were born there to Adam and Anna Katharina, one of whom died in infancy. From there they moved to Grandfather's homestead where I was born in the house on the hill beside the Vermilion River in 1903. I assume it was in 1904 that Father moved the family to a homestead across the river by raft. Many a time we girls waded that river to pick gooseberries. I remember one time, possibly 1916 that it overflowed to fill the wide coulee on the west.

By that time we were five children as two were brought across the ocean. We lived in a shack for awhile, then the beginning of a house which was added to as the family grew. We were a family of twelve, the youngest being born after the oldest was married.

There was no money but Father was an eager worker and was right there when there was a dollar to be made. I'm sure we were not finicky eaters, nor were our children raised in the dirty thirties. Father often had to be away from home overnight and mother had to take care of the animals at calving time.

We lived on the NE¼ 14-50-15, one mile east of Adams School, and it was a nice walk to school in good weather. In autumn we walked through half a mile of grain field. One day one of the little ones was missed at dinner and was found on that trail trying to follow big sister to school.

There are now eight of us living since the eldest Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie), John A., Henry A., and Christian have passed on. Anna Maria Elizabeth (Emma) is now the eldest, then Margaretta (Peggy) and Katherine (yours truly), Christina, Clara, Minna (Min), Paulina and Helen.

We all went to Adams school, fortunately not all

at once. I enjoyed school, though nothing came easy to me. Spelling was my favourite subject and scrabble is my favourite game. I loved my teachers and remember something specific about each one.

After more schooling in Edmonton I married John Slater Dennington in 1929, Jack to me because of so many Johns among relatives. We hung our hats in Holden for a short time while Jack pioneered in freight trucking.

We returned to Edmonton and after a spell of unemployment Jack went back as a teamster for W. Burns at H. H. Coopers. When we had two children, a son and a daughter, McCoshams took over the freighting by truck and we once more faced unemployment. Rather than endure relief we took advantage of a government loan scheme to try farming. We sold our car to put a down payment on a piece of land in the Darwell district. A third child, a son was born while we lived on the farm.

Nat (Nathaniel) Dennington has been employed with Stelco for more than twenty years and lives at Golden Spike.

Katherine Anne (Eberhart) lives in Vermilion, and is employed with the Toronto Dominion bank.

Malcolm worked his way through university (Montana State) and is with C.W.S. in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Our living came from a small herd of registered Ayrshire cows, and the raising of hogs. The work got too difficult because my health was not good enough to be of much help, so after twenty-two years on the farm we sold our cows and Jack found employment with the federal government. He was herdsman in a hog project at a test station, first in Edmonton and later in Lacombe. He retired in 1973.

While on the farm at Darwell Jack led the community in establishing an Agricultural Fair held there every year. He was president for ten years. The fair keeps on growing and is widely known. We enjoy visiting it whenever possible.

Giebelhaus, Christian

Christian, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Giebelhaus of Holden and Hertha, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Schatz of Onoway were married in October, 1944 at the Salem Reformed Church. To this union there were three girls born: Gloria, Dianna and Marion. Gloria took most of her education at Holden School and graduated from grade twelve at Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat. She went to NAIT in Edmonton and graduated as a Lab Technician. She worked for some time for a blood donor clinic in Edmonton, then accepted a position as Head Lab Technician at the General Hospital. In 1969 she married Don Golko of Edmonton. They



Mr. and Mrs. Christian Giebelhaus, 1944.

now reside in St. Albert where Don has his own business. They have two children Lisa and Gregory.

Dianna took most of her education at Holden and graduated from grade twelve at Camrose Lutheran College. In May of 1968 she married Vernon Campbell of Round Hill and they live on a farm in the Round Hill area. They have two children Pamela and Glen. Glen, who weighed 2 lbs. 5 oz. at birth, is now a healthy, active boy who plays hockey and participates in other sports.



Chris Giebelhaus family. Standing: Vernon Campbell, Don Golka, Chris Giebelhaus, Marion and Lloyd Zelinski. Seated: Diane Campbell, Gloria Golka, Hertha Giebelhaus.

Marion took all her education at Holden School and graduated from Holden High School. She then found employment in Edmonton. She took a leave of absence and travelled to many countries in Europe. After her return she was employed by Travel Alberta. Later she decided to go to NAIT and graduated as a Lab Technician. In 1975 she married Lloyd Zeliniski of Westlock. She now lives in Westlock and is Head Lab Technician at the Westlock Hospital. They have one daughter Janine. Christian and Hertha bought the farm from his Dad and farmed for twenty-nine years. In 1973 they sold the farm to Jim and Sharon Giebelhaus and moved to Camrose. They are both retired at this time.

Giebelhaus, Conrad and Amelia

In the early 1900's, many of the German settlers living in the Volga River region to the north of Moscow immigrated to America. Although their forefathers had been offered land and freedom of language and religion by the Russian government, the younger generation of men was faced with five years of compulsory military training. Farm land was no longer available to small farmers so in order to make a livelihood they worked as laborers for the large landowners. This led to the exodus of many young families to a new "promised land".



Conrad Giebelhaus farm buildings about 1920. Conrad, wife Amelia; brother Henry, wife Anna; Mrs. Albrecht.

Thus, in 1909 Conrad Giebelhaus, his wife Amelia and four small children, Katherine, Johannas, Margarethe and Heinrich boarded a train in Norka, Russia bound for Hamburg, Germany. In the excitement of bidding farewell to relatives and friends, the baby, Heinrich was almost left behind in the arms of his grandfather.

The Martins district was eventually reached where Conrad's brother, Henry, had taken a homestead some years earlier. Most of the land in the area had already been filed on, so while the families lived in a number of little log houses vacated by homesteaders, Conrad worked for Ed. Christianson, Pete Kjosness and others of the established settlers in the north Holden area.

His first team of horses was bought from John Jacobson. A few cows, probably acquired in lieu of wages, were pastured on the lush grass in the big slough on land which much later he was able to buy.

The family increased with the arrival of Annie and George. Bertha was born several years later.

The Blum land (now Dan Giebelhaus home quarter) was rented for a time. Then about 1914, eighty acres S½ of NE-34-50-15 was bought from Conrad's brother Henry, and a two storey log house was built.

The Adams School, three miles south, was where the older children received their education along with the Wyllies, Albrechts, John and Adam Giebelhaus, Nordstroms and others. Later the Ideal School was opened and the younger family went there.



Conrad Giebelhaus age 86 years, 1959.

In 1917 the Salem Reformed Church was built in the centre of this German settlement. Katie and John were members of the first confirmation class in 1918. Conrad taught a Sunday school class in the German language, and was a consistory board member for many years.

A half section of wooded land W½-21-50-15, known to the family as “back west” was bought and the arduous task of clearing and breaking began in 1926. Then in 1933 Conrad purchased the quarter next to his 80 acres from Emma and Will Collins.

The girls worked for various people around Vegreville and in Edmonton.

Katie married Ephraim Steinacker in 1935 and they farmed for a time at Metiskow before settling in the Vegreville area.

Henry and Marie Albrecht were married in 1936. They farmed for several years on SE-34-50-15. During the early 40's (war time), Henry bought grain for the Midland Pacific Co. in Haight and Inland. He bought the Weitzel quarter SW-26-50-15 and returned to farming. Their sons Ernie and Arnold both attended school in Holden.



Conrad Giebelhaus family, 1978: John, Anne Schoettler, Henry, Bertha MacBeth, George, Katie Steinacker.

George and Zelda Haeberle were married in 1939. (see their story)

Annie, working in Edmonton, met a German newcomer, Frank Schoettler. They were married in 1938 and farmed for a short time at Peers before buying a farm south of Vegreville. Their family consisted of three sons, Richard, Ronald and Gerald.

A quarter of land was bought from Barney Huyke of Vegreville and another from Gus Miller when he moved to the coast. This N½-34-50-15 along with Conrad's original 80 acres were farmed by John and his father for several years. Conrad worked with horses, John with the mechanized machinery. Trucks, cars and tractors were in common use, but Conrad would have nothing to do with any of them.

John and Beulah (nee Hillerud) a former teacher at Adams School were married in 1945. Four years later Conrad and Amelia moved into Vegreville leaving the farm to John. A family of eight soon filled the big house; four daughters, Janice, Ila, Barbara and Arlene; four sons, Terry, Howard, Dennis and Philip.

In 1952 Bertha, the youngest of Conrad's family married Jack Macbeth of Calgary. Both were employed by Imperial Oil in Devon for a while and then Jack was transferred to Edmonton. Their children, Roderick and Sandra live in the Edmonton area.

Mrs. Giebelhaus passed away suddenly as the result of a stroke in 1956. Soon after Katie and Ephraim Steinacker had a farm auction sale and moved into town with Katie's father. Conrad passed away in 1959 following a short illness. Both are buried in the Salem Cemetery with many other pioneers of the Martins district.

Margaret lived for many years in an institution as a result of a serious illness. She died in 1978 at 72 years of age.

The third generation of the family is now farming the land cleared and broken by Conrad, his brother Henry and their sons. David farms with George; Arnold with Henry; Terry with John; and Leslie owns his great uncle Henry's farm. All are proud to be successors in their father's footsteps, and especially in those of their pioneering grandfather.

Giebelhaus, Conrad (1877-1959) and Katherine (1879-1966) and Family by Katherine Brandle

Our ancestors originally came from Hessen, Germany during the reign of Catherine the Great of Russia who sent out a call for settlers, promising free land and freedom of religion. When they arrived in central Russia, they were very disappointed to find nothing but raw open land. They prepared for winter as best they could. Their deep religious faith in God and the Christian Reformed Church helped them to survive great hardships. They settled in a village and named it Norka. Gradually living conditions improved, as the land was very fertile.

Our parents, Conrad and Katherine, were married in 1904. Then Dad was conscripted into the Russian Army. After the war was over, Dad and Mother decided to immigrate with others to Canada. They now had two girls, Elizabeth and Christine. They sailed in 1909. They journeyed to Holden where Mother's uncle George Giebelhaus lived. Mother was disappointed to find snow still on the ground in June, and she was also afraid of the terrible thunder storms that came so frequently.

George Giebelhaus supplied them with a house in



Katherine Giebelhaus (Mrs. Conrad A.).



Conrad A. Giebelhaus.

which I was born two years later. Dad worked for them and several other farmers for several years. There was plenty of open land with an abundance of wild berries as well as lots of game. These kept the family well supplied with a variety of fresh food.

When our parents had saved up enough money,

they bought a farm of their own and here two more children were born, Nellie and Peter. Dad cleared the land and farmed it; he also raised cattle and pigs. Mother loved raising chickens, geese and ducks.

There was usually a fair crop. However, in 1918 all the crops froze, resulting in a severe feed shortage. Feed had to be shipped in from other parts of the country. A lot of cattle died because of the poor quality. When a carload was expected the farmers would all go to Holden, regardless of the cold weather, hoping there would be enough feed to go around. One night our dad came home with an empty sleigh. A fight had broken out over a few bales of hay. He did not want to get involved so he left for home.

Dad passed away in 1959 at the age of 82. Pete continued the mixed farming operation and Mother kept house until she passed away in 1966 at 87 years of age.

They both attended Salem Church faithfully, and are interred in the cemetery.



John and Elizabeth Batch family at their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Elizabeth was born in 1905, and came to Canada at the age of four. She attended Adams School. She married John Batch in 1920, and they farmed in the Imperial district for several years. Then they moved to the Fraser Valley in B.C. in 1939 where they operated a 20 acre farm. Their family consisted of nine children, Lydia, Larry, Emil, Ester, Helen, Dorothea, Bill, Clifford and Diane. There are 22 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

John and Elizabeth retired in 1961 and resided in Aldergrove until John passed away in 1981 at the age of 88. Elizabeth is now living in a senior citizen's complex in Abbotsford and still enjoys fairly good health.

Christine came to Canada when she was one year old in 1909. She attended Adams School and married Alex McCallum in 1943. They farmed in the Imperial district, moved to Vilna, and eventually to Harrison Mills, B.C. where Alex worked in the logging



Christine and Alec McCallum (1943).

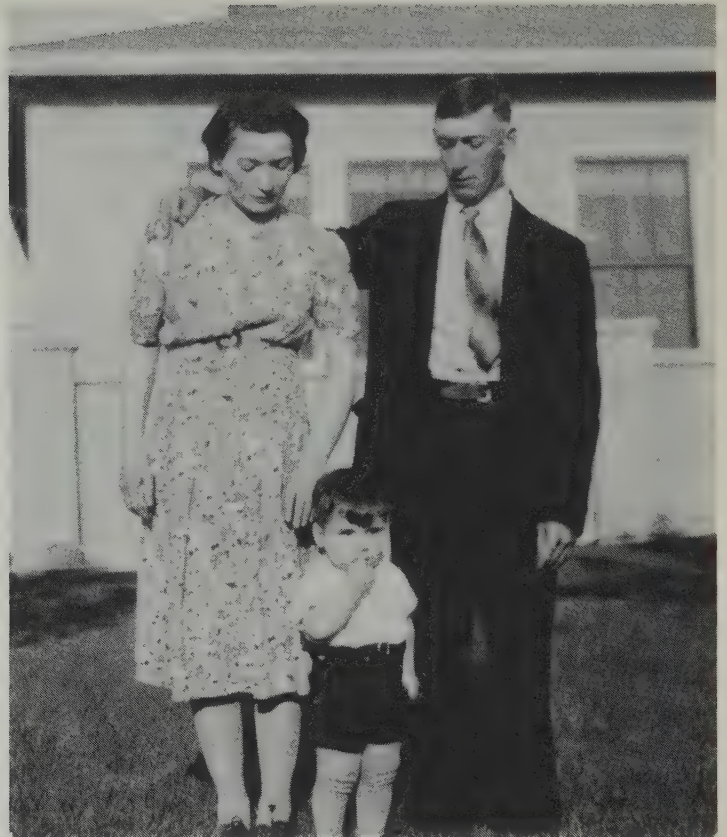
camps. They had two sons, Allen and Gordon. Allen was killed in a car accident in 1960 at the age of sixteen. Christine was also killed in a car accident in 1969 at the age of 61. Alex passed away in 1973. Gordon is married and has three children.



Tony and Katie Brandle, Ron and Stan.

I, Katie was born in 1911 and was one of the first pupils to attend the newly built Ideal School. After working away from home for several years, I married Tony Brandle in 1937. After farming for several years in the St. Albert and Mayerthorpe areas, we retired to Spruce Grove. We were blessed with two sons, Ron and Stan, three granddaughters and one great-grandson. Tony passed away in 1974 at the age of 73. A few years later I moved to Gibbons where I still live.

Nellie was born in 1918, attended Ideal School, and married Albert Moisan in 1939. They lived in St.



Nellie and Albert Moisan and Henry.

Paul before moving to Edmonton. They had six children, Henry, Robert, Edward, Marcel, Doris and Emil. They have eight grandchildren. Albert passed away in 1978 at the age of 76.

Peter, the youngest in the family, attended Ideal School and helped Dad with the farm work. He served in the army for several years and was overseas when he was released. Since then, he has bought more land and continues to operate the home farm.

Giebelhaus, Dan and Elizabeth by Elizabeth (Liz) Giebelhaus

Dan and I were married in 1952 in Josephburg, Alberta. We were blessed with four children, Anita, Debra-Marie, Eric and Dana.

Our years were very busy, including everything from Adam's School Community Centre, Holden Home and School, Farm Radio Forum (which was a great Monday evening activity for years) and of course the life and work of our church etc.

Dan became involved in countless things agricultural. The last few years he was especially busy with hog boards and was chairman of the A.P.P.M.B., chairman of the Three Prairie Prov. Comm. and vice-chairman of the Canadian Pork Council.

My life is full too with family, choirs, W.I., festivals and a particular joy has been working musically with people of every faith and nationality — indeed it has been a privilege!



Dana, Debbie, Elizabeth, Dan, Anita and Eric.

Our home is still Danli Farm. The children all lead useful interesting lives. Anita is a school teacher in Calgary and Debbie in Vancouver. Dana, after receiving his B.Sc. at the U. of A., returned to the farm to join forces with his brother Eric to continue with our farming operation.

We are thankful to be living in a good community, surrounded by thoughtful neighbors.

Giebelhaus, George

George and Mary Giebelhaus started farming on their own in 1929. George built a house on the S½ 13-50-15-W4 in 1928. He married Mary Albrecht that fall. Though a new house, there was not much heat which was provided by the cook stove for the two rooms. Water would freeze overnight.

After about four years a furnace was installed. This was good until 1966 when a new home was built,



George and Mary Giebelhaus' first home (1928).



(1918) John Giebelhaus family (George's father). Back Row: Annie, John, Rev. Buenzli, George. Front Row: Adam, Conrad, John Giebelhaus, Margaret, Henry.

a stoker furnace installed, as well as electricity, running water and sewer. A great change. Mary passed away in March 1972.

After a couple of years George was married to Mrs. Leila Dupruis. They stayed on the farm for two years then bought a house in town. After a couple of years they built a new home at 4828-50 Avenue. This is where they live today.



Spring flood, 1948. Marvin walking on the rail of the bridge.

Mary and George raised four sons and a daughter.

Marvin finished school at Holden and took up hauling gravel for eight years then quit trucking and bought the M&M Grocery Store in 1962. He operated it until he sold it to Wayne and Sandra Hamblin in 1980. He married Harriet Sen in 1976. He is now unemployed and is busier than he ever was.

Wallace, married Florence Huseby in 1956, and they have three children, Janet, Mark and Lynne. Wallace lives on SE¼ 14-50-15-W4, operates seven quarters of land which is hardly enough to keep a young man's energy down. Big machinery gets the job done fast but adds to the expense too. He raises

cattle. Fencing is a regular job, a must in cattle business.

Betty-Lou was married to Gary David in 1976. They live on an acreage north of Spruce Grove. He operates a business and Betty-Lou has worked for the Department of Agriculture for twenty years.

James Wesley is married to Sharon Ozubko. Their two children are Carrie and Wesley. They have farmed the home place since 1976, operating seven quarters and raising cattle and hogs. Jim also operates a large set-up for fertilizing in the spring and spraying weeds later on. Custom spraying keeps them busy.

Robert John is married to Marie Katherine Campbell. Their three children are, Leighan Marie, Sheryl Lynn and Craig Robert. Bob, who has a degree in civil engineering, works with "The Engineers Collaborative". They reside in Edmonton.

Giebelhaus, George and Zelda

In the spring of 1909 Conrad (known as Black Conrad) and his wife Amelia and their three children, Katie, John, Margaret and Henry emigrated from a small farming village of Norka, Russia to homestead midway between Holden and Vegreville. Freedom from oppression and a promise of available farm land lured them to our new land of Canada. Their pioneer days required much hard labor but because of Conrad's willingness and a bit of farming background he was never without work, and so was able to buy eighty acres of land N.E. 34-50-15 where they built a two storey log house and other buildings. The family increased by two daughters, Anne and Bertha and one son George in 1912.



Family of George and Zelda in 1947. Back Row: Dorothy, Carole, (baby unknown). Front Row: Butch, Irene, Leslie.



James and Robert Giebelhaus (five year old twins).

Geore grew up as any other farm boy learning the necessities and regularity of chores in farming. He received his education at the Ideal School about two and a half miles north of the farmstead, and his religious training at the Salem Reformed Lutheran Church in the German language. Spending money was hard to get so George, Ed and Alec Albrecht and the Mast boys caught gophers, saved the tails along with crow and magpie eggs and feet. A penny was paid for each turned in to the municipal office. Thinking gophers would grow more tails the boys cut them off and let the gophers go free. During the winter months rabbits and weasels were snared or shot and sold for 10¢ per hide. Hockey was the main winter sport. They built outside rinks and made their own pads, etc.

George continued to live and work on the family farm. He met Zelda (nee Haeberle), a housemaid working for Willis Cole in 1937 at a dance at Alida Hall. Her father Charlie and her mother Beulah (Berry) having emigrated from Germany via Lewiston Idaho in 1910, first settled near Castor where ranchland was available. Charlie, a cowboy at heart was forced by a prairie fire to move, settled in the Bruce area in 1922. Many people found an open door and handouts in this home. Charlie competed in stampedes from 1912 until his death in 1949.

George and Zelda married in 1939, continued to work and live on the family farm until 1940, when they moved to W½-21-50-15. For a time he helped at home, then they began their life together with a daughter, three feeder pigs and two cows, and as time went on they prospered. Machinery was second hand but George kept it in good repair and so life was. To this union three daughters, Carole, Dorothy and Irene, and two sons, Leslie and David were born. They all grew up and were educated in the Adams and Holden schools. The family took active part in Salem Church and community. There were always chores to do and the children learned their importance at an early age. Boys and girls alike were taught milking cows by hand, feeding pigs, chickens, cleaning eggs butchering chickens and cleaning fish. Leslie, Irene and David were members of the 4-H beef club. This they enjoyed, although washing and grooming of calves was a headache. Leslie still takes part in 4-H. Dorothy bought her first wrist watch from profits of hatching duck eggs.

In spite of the busyness we somehow found time for recreation. George, an ardent curler, won many prizes, threw many a rock through the house, or not across the hog line, but never won a trophy. Zelda's holiday was when George went fishing even though she was left with all the chores and responsibility.

After graduation Carole worked for two years at



Giebelhaus family on George and Zelda's 25th Anniversary. Back Row: Zelda, George, Leslie, Butch and Irene. Front: Dorothy and Carole.

AGT in Holden. She married Ed. Danylak. They have one daughter Marianne. They live at Calmer where Carole works at the Tom Boy store and Eddie is a civil servant at the International Airport. Dorothy worked three years at Holden AGT after graduation. She married Reg Tymchuk in 1963 a farmer and pressure welder. They live north of Vegreville and have three girls and one boy, Wanda, Darcy, Tammy and Karen.

Leslie married Sharon Swift of Viking in 1965. They farm in the Adams district and have four girls and one son; Phyllis, Cheryl, Kathy, Teresa and Curt.

Irene after completing high school worked for Blue Cross in Edmonton. She married Robert Dewart of Bruce. They have a son Todd and live at Leduc. Irene is a secretary at Southgate Good Samaritan Nursing Home and Robbie a mechanic at Alberta Tractor. David (Butch) worked on the home farm until he moved to Edmonton where he worked with Northwestern Utilities for twelve years, followed by six years with Nova, and farming. In 1971 he married Mildred Hopf of Tofield. Their children are daughters Trudy and Lanette and a son, Lee. They live in Vegreville.

As the family grew up and left home George and Zelda continued life on the farm doing less and less. Due to poor health they retired from farming and moved to Vegreville in 1980, but once a farmer always a farmer.

Giebelhaus, John A. and Family

John A. Giebelhaus was born in Norka, Russia in 1897. He immigrated along with his sister, parents and grandparents to Stony Plain area in 1899. The family were descendants of German stock that had

migrated to Russia from Germany at the invitation of Catherine the Great. Life there became increasingly difficult and Canada was the land of promise.

In 1902 the family moved to the Martins (Adam's) district. John received his education at the Adams School, named for his father because he contributed most of the lumber and also many of the children. John was the second eldest in a family of twelve children.

In 1919 John married Elizabeth Miller. She came to Canada from Kansas in 1912. The family settled in the Adams district so she and John both attended school as did all of their children. It was here romance began when John dipped Elizabeth's pigtails in the inkwell.

We remember Mom's expertise with the bat and many an evening, tired though she must have been, she would bat "flies" for us to catch. Her skills as a homemaker were many and we girls are indebted to her for good lessons in cookery and housekeeping. Her angel foods were in great demand by everyone so we were fortunate to have one on our table for every birthday and festive occasion.

John and Elizabeth worked very hard as all pioneers did, but they found time to become involved in the life of their church and community. John was sec-treas. of the Adams School district for many years prior to the establishment of the County System

and centralized schools. He also served as a councillor for the M.D. of Patricia and County of Beaver. In addition to farming, he was also an auctioneer for many years until ill health forced him to quit. In 1947 the family farm was sold to his son Reuben, and John and Elizabeth moved to Holden, where he became a partner in Holden Machinery. Later he built and operated the Holden Auction Mart. When most men are retiring, he began working as a commercial traveller for North West Mill & Feed. In 1972 ill health forced him to retire at the age of 75.

After they moved to Holden, Elizabeth kept up with the family now spreading out, and also worked hard for the church, spending twelve years as president of the United Church Ladies Aid.

John and Elizabeth were blessed with three sons and five daughters. All were encouraged to pursue their individual vocations or professions. In addition to their work, all are involved in church and community endeavors but still find time to pursue a variety of hobbies and travel as much as possible.

Ruth married Albert Pederson in 1939. (See their story)

Reuben married Elsie Fried in 1947. (See their story)

Edna decided on a teaching career, graduating from Edmonton Normal School in 1943. After several years of teaching at Likeness, Holden and Jasper,



John A. Giebelhaus family.

she took secretarial training, and became an employee of Rowed and O'Neill Photography and Handicrafts. Seven years later she returned to U. of A. and obtained her B.Ed. She taught Home Economics in Jasper until her retirement in 1980 with thirty years in the classroom behind her. Edna married Don Weeks, a C.N.R. conductor, in 1966. They enjoy life in Jasper and provide a base for visiting relatives and friends.

Dorothy graduated as a nurse from the Misericordia Hospital. While nursing at Chilliwack, B.C. she met Dick Corser and married him in 1950. They took over the Erith Tie Co. southwest of Edson. They have four children. Judy and her husband Rob Dykstra, both journalists, have an infant daughter. They reside at Chilliwack. The sons Clyde, Craig and Don all work with their father. Clyde a graduate of Business Administration is married and he and Shelagh live in Edson with their two young sons. Craig and Don live at Erith. Dorothy and Dick are actively involved politically and with Alberta Forestry Association. The whole family has travelled extensively.

Harold Giebelhaus married Audre Liden in 1954. (See Liden story).

Mildred became a hair dresser. She continued in this field several years after her marriage in 1951 to Lorne ("Butch") Bell of Holden. She still does hair-dressing for the Seniors of Pioneer Court on Wednesdays. Lorne has worked in the oil industry all these years. They enjoy fishing and spending time at the lake.

Lorraine, although a gifted pianist, chose pediatric nursing as her career. When she moved to California she met Matt Frolich and they were married in 1957. They have expertise and great interest in horticulture and gardening, and are skilled in handicrafts. They plan to retire in sunny Alberta.

Earl graduated from Guelph Veterinary College and is now Dr. Giebelhaus. He met Penny Thorpe a home economics student at Macdonald College. They were married in 1964. Earl established a clinic in Rimbey and practises in the Eckville-Rimbey area. He pioneered in embryo transplants. Earl and Penny live on their acreage west of Rimbey with their three children, Ian, Elizabeth and Francis. All are involved in community life but take time to enjoy skiing, sailing and swimming as a family. Penny is a skilled homemaker and hostess.

John A. went to his eternal home in 1981, and Elizabeth still lives at Pioneer Court in Sherwood Park where she and John moved in 1970.

Giebelhaus, John George (known as John G.)

In 1903, John accompanied his parents George

and Margaretha Giebelhaus, brother Adam (his wife and two children, John and Elizabeth) and sister Katharina (Kay) to the Martins district north of Holden where a log house and barn were erected, land cleared with an axe and broken up with a walking plough. During the first two winters, he hired himself out as a laborer to help earn money to further the family's farming operation. Wages at that time were, for the most part, very meagre and the work was heavy manual labor. During the winter he hauled wheat to South Edmonton by horse and sleigh, taking a route across Beaver Lake and Cooking Lake, a four-day journey and returned with loads of lumber from which the necessary new buildings were built.



John G. and Anna Marie Giebelhaus' wedding, 1914.

In 1914, John was united in marriage with Anna Marie Deines who came from Norka, Russia. Prior to coming to Canada her handicraft was weaving. She also enjoyed singing. In 1913, at the age of 21, she, with several of her cousins came to Calgary where one of her uncles lived. Here she found employment in a commercial laundry, operating a mangle, until her marriage to John the following year. John and Anna Marie lived with his parents for seven years. Here three children were born — William Adam, in 1915; Lydia, in 1917 and Leah, in 1920.

He filed on his own homestead beside his father's in 1905. John and his father built up a three-hundred cow herd. They pastured their cattle mainly on open range which was readily available in those days. Hay

for winter feeding was cut by horse mower and stacked by hand. They built a large hip roof barn which in later years was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

John helped with the building of the Martins Reformed Church in 1917 which became the nucleus of their life. Their great faith sustained them during many trials.

In December, 1921, John, Anna Marie and their three children moved to their new farm located on N.E. 28-50-15, north of Holden. Here four more children were born; Bertha, in 1922; Daniel in 1926; John David, in 1927 and Martha Esther in 1934.

Pioneering began all over again. Land had to be cleared, breaking had to be done, roots had to be picked. Poverty is the mother of invention and accomplishment — no job was too big! Wheat was hauled by team to the Vegreville flour mill to be ground into flour. Cows were milked; butter was churned and traded at the local grocery store for groceries (a very competitive business since most farmers' wives around traded butter or eggs for groceries too). With no refrigeration, meat during the summer months was a problem. Pork was cured but beef resulted in "beef rings". Several farmers joined the ring. Each week one farmer would butcher and supply the rest with fresh meat until each had taken his turn. In this way fresh meat was on hand at all times. Necessary buildings were erected. Rainy days were spent in the blacksmith shop where John set up his forge and anvil. Here he sharpened plough shares, repaired machinery, made and repaired and oiled harnesses. Great pride was taken in his horses. They were always well fed and groomed. Soles of shoes were made of leather in those days, a job for rainy days. Sheep were kept and sheared. The wool was made into quilts and some was spun into wool and knit into socks. This was done in the evening while the family sat around the table which was brightened with a coal oil lamp. Then came a luxury — the Aladdin lamp. It had one big mantle and the light was so bright that many a youngster, when no one was looking, was tempted to touch the mantle which would crumble like powder. If a fly flew against it, it would break. It was very precious.

Grain was hauled to the elevator in the winter with a team and sleigh. The summer was too busy for that job. In 1928 he purchased his first one-ton truck, an International. What a revolution! He hauled his grain in the summer and until the roads blocked with the first snowfall. Shortly after this, they moved to their own farm. He bought his first tractor, a Case, and then the Case threshing machine. The tractor wheels had lugs on them. There were no rubber tires in those days. The vibration kept the operator wide

awake. The sad part of the tractor was that it never got tired as did the horses so we children in the summer would go to sleep with the roar of the tractor and wake up to the same tune. He did all his own breaking with it and never seemed to tire. He enjoyed putting new land into production. There were no weed sprays in those days but there were weed inspectors who would condemn the land if it became weedy. He always used the latest and best methods of farming. If a few weeds showed they were either cut down or picked by hand. His fields were as well tended as a garden. He was so proud of his land.

Roads were not graded up as they are now so with the first snowfall the car was put up on jacks and blocked until the spring. He hauled coal from the Ryley coal mine during the winter with the team. It was a two-day trip. He wore a heavy buffalo fur coat and walked behind the team and sleigh for many miles to keep warm. On real cold trips Mom would heat a rock in the oven. It would be wrapped carefully and put in the bottom of the sleigh. This was used as a foot-warmer. He carried his lunch in his pocket which often became quite frost bitten before he ate it.

During the hungry thirties many hungry passers-by would stop in for a meal. They were never turned away. Many of these would be Indian people with large families who were hungry and poorly dressed. First off, they would give them a bag of flour, some meat and eggs and then provide them with warm clothing. Many times the children were left with only the clothes they were wearing. Then the sewing machine would buzz all night long with Mother sewing and remaking clothes for the children to wear the next day. Often these people would set up their tents in the pasture and camp during the summer and return to their reservations in the fall. John would often hire the men to pick roots or do some brushing.

When sugar was very scarce during the war years, bees were kept and very delicious dishes were made with honey. Anna Marie raised a beautiful garden and took great pride in her flowers. John built an ice house 5' x 5' and about 12' deep. He cut huge blocks of ice out of the Vermilion River and dropped them into the hole and covered them with sawdust. The ice lasted until fall. Cream, butter and meat were kept in the ice well. Homemade ice cream was a real specialty.

Cattle were an important part in their farming operation. After being hauled out three years in succession in the thirties, feed became very scarce so the cattle were driven to Hastings Lake.

In 1938 they built a new home equipped with modern facilities and electricity and in 1941 a new round-roofed barn with a hay mow was built.

They had many friends. Sunday afternoons were



Mrs. John G. Giebelhaus and family, 1942: Wm. A., Lydia, John D., Martha, Leah, Dan and Bertha.

spent in visiting or being visited. Many an evening was spent with friends reminiscing about the bygone days. They talked of their families and friends whom they left in Russia, never to see again.

In 1942, after a brief illness, John passed away at the age of 59 years. The family continued to make their home on the farm. Anna Marie passed away in 1963, at the age of 71 years.

All seven children are married and have families. Bill, Dan and John have farms north of Holden, with John D. residing on the home farm. Bill married Esther Schwindt; Dan married Elizabeth Krieger; John D. married Katie Biermann; Lydia married Henry Roemer and they live in Tripp, South Dakota; Leah married Reuben Schwindt and they live near Spruce Grove; Bertha married Joe Roberts and they live near Wainwright; and Martha married Francis Everett and they live in Wainwright.



Grandma and children: Mrs. John G. Giebelhaus and daughter Martha, son-in-law Francis Everett. Left to Right: Lloyd Giebelhaus, Linda Roberts, Eric Giebelhaus, Allan and Brian Roberts, Kenneth, Anita and Debbie Giebelhaus.

Giebelhaus, John George (known as George)

It was approximately 1760 when George Giebelhaus's ancestors were among thousands of Germans from Hesson, Germany, who had responded to the invitation of Empress Catherine II of Russia, to settle and develop the Volga region. These settlers were offered land, free use of their own language, freedom of religion and as citizens of Russia would enjoy all the privileges of the country.

George (born in 1853) married Margaretha Nolde (born in 1852) in 1874. This marriage was blessed with three children, Adam born in 1876, John in 1882 and Katharina in 1886. In February 1899, George and his family left Norka to come to Canada, arriving in Edmonton, Alberta in April. They were welcomed on their arrival to Edmonton by his brother Adam, with a team of horses and a double-box wagon. They crossed the Saskatchewan River during spring break; the horses walked on ice bottom and waded through deep water. The horses were then rested and fed where now stands Alberta College. They moved on to their first place of residence in the Glory Hills district, north of Stony Plain. Here George purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. Together he and his sons built a log house, log barn, fences and dug a well.

In 1900 they helped build the first Reformed Church in the Glory Hills district which was made of



Mr. and Mrs. John George Giebelhaus and children, Katharina and John G.

logs. During this time homesteads were opened in the Martins district north of Holden. In 1901 he took up a homestead there on NE-12-50-15, and during the years 1903-1904 the family moved.

These pioneers endured many hardships. It has been said that the first seeds planted were bitter tears. It was their prayers and faith in God that brought them through many difficult times. The Christian faith was central in their lives. Morning and evening devotions for the whole family were practised. An important part in the lives of these early settlers was the gathering together in different homes to read and study scriptures. These gatherings became the nucleus that formed the Martins congregation. In between minister's visits the congregation would continue to meet; often George either preached a sermon or read from a sermon book. Salem Church was then built in 1917. George was a member of the consistory for many years.

His wife, Margaretha, passed away in 1927. George later married the former Mrs. Marie Nolde (Heckman) who was a widowed sister-in-law. George passed away in 1939 and his second wife in 1944. They are all laid to rest in Martin's Cemetery north-east of Holden.

Giebelhaus, John (Little John)

by Margaret Zwierschke

In the year 1899, John Giebelhaus, with his wife Elizabeth, and their one-year old daughter Elizabeth (Annie) decided to leave their homeland, Norka, on the Volga River, Russia for Canada. They came with faith in God and themselves, and their fellow-men, to make a better life.

Six more children were born in Canada — five sons and one daughter: John, George, Adam, Margaret, Henry and Conrad.



Family of John (Little John) Giebelhaus.

They worked as laborers for a few years, to acquire enough money to buy land, machinery and horses, and acquire a homestead of their own.

Their first destination was Stony Plain. They applied for a homestead in 1902 S.E. 14-50-15-W4. In 1903 they settled in the Martins district.

They labored very hard, and gathered logs to build their first home and other necessary buildings.

The roads were but trails. In 1905 the Canadian Northern Railway came through Vegreville. The Grand Trunk came through Holden in 1909.

One way to earn a living in the winter was to haul lumber from Edmonton with sleigh and horses, across the ice on Beaver Lake to Holden. Once the sleigh and horses broke through the ice and Mr. Giebelhaus almost lost his life.

There were no bridges to cross the river, so they had to rely on a home-made boat to escape the prairie fires. Later a stone bridge was built. It is still there, but not in use.

There were few fences, so animals roamed unrestricted. Sometimes they could not be found for milking. Wild fruit was plentiful. Strawberries, raspberries, black currants, saskatoons, gooseberries, chokecherries, were picked for food, and sometimes sold at the store for necessary staples.

Coal oil lamps were the best light they had. Often they had to use a scooped-out potato filled with tallow.



George and John J. Giebelhaus with their favorite horses in early '20s.

They lived in a tent before the log house was built. They were plagued so badly by mosquitoes that horses trampled down the tent. The family left for awhile as it was impossible to endure these insects. Smoke smudges, and mosquito netting were used to give some protection. Pioneer women worked hard and endured loneliness, when ill there was no doctor to assist in childbirth. Prairie fires were an ever present hazard. At times fire guards had to be



Farm home of "Little" John Giebelhaus. House built in 1917. Barn built in 1918.

ploughed around haystacks. Several lives were lost in prairie fires, as they raged on and left no way of escape.

Eventually a threshing machine and steam engine were purchased. Its whistle would be blown if there was a fire. The men would drop everything and fight the fire. There was great satisfaction in having the threshing machine move in to thresh the crops, each in his own turn. Preparing meals for a crew of fourteen men or more for days was fun too, even though it meant getting up at five o'clock in the morning to prepare breakfast and other meals.

In 1917 a frame house was built to replace the log dwelling. A log barn was built in the following year. The frame house is now lived in by a grandson Wallace and his family. The new furnishings were a great improvement from sleeping on boards and straw ticks, to beds with springs.

By this time other pioneers had moved in. To meet the spiritual needs of these pioneering families, they met in each other's homes for spiritual worship. Service was led by the older settlers, who read the Bible, gave sermons and led in prayer. Later they met in Adams School. In 1917 the (Redeemer) Salem Evangelical Reformed Church was built midway between Holden and Vegreville. For many years the services were held in the German language by German ministers who had come from Germany. Mr. Giebelhaus was an elder and the family attended regularly.

There were many young people in the community by now. They frequently gathered at the Giebelhaus home on Sunday evenings, and enjoyed singing hymns. Other diversions were horseshoe, baseball, and skating on the home rink or river.

The family grew up and married.

Annie married George Miller in 1922. They had five children. Mr. Miller passed away in 1980 at the age of 84.

John farmed for many years. In 1974 he moved into Homestead Lodge where he resided until his death at the age of 80 in 1980.

George was married to Mary Albrecht. (See George Giebelhaus story).

Adam married Dora Bablitz in 1948. They had two children. Dora passed away in 1961, at the age of 38. They resided in Fort St. John, B.C. after leaving Holden in 1956. Adam and family still live there.

Margaret married Ross Zwierschke, (see Ross and Margaret Zwierschke story).

Henry married Frieda Albrecht in 1940. They moved from the Holden district to Fort St. John where they still reside. They had one daughter.

Con was married to Edna Postnikoff in 1942. They lived in the Holden district until 1957 when they too, moved to Fort St. John to join Adam in a building contractor partnership. Both have now retired from their business. In 1978 they moved to Camrose where they and their son now reside.

Giebelhaus, Reuben

I was born on Feb. 5th, 1923 on the family farm at what was then known as the Martins District, oldest son of John and Elizabeth Giebelhaus.

My earliest memories are of gathering turkey eggs from Grandfather Miller's stack as he was unable to crawl up the stacks to their nests. In return for this he promised me a trip to the city of Edmonton. We left in his Model T Ford Touring Model with side curtains as windows in 1928. I remember the long drive — almost 80 miles over country style roads — approximately a 3-hour trip. He also included a visit to the Parliament Buildings.



Reuben Giebelhaus family.

I received my education at the Adams School, getting there mostly on foot, walking two miles each way. In wintertime, until I was able to handle a horse, we caught rides with the John Pipke family, our neighbors.

My father, being a municipal councillor and auctioneer was a very busy man. Therefore at age 14 I quit school and with hired help took over the management of my father's farm, even doing custom combining at 16 years of age by Mundare.

One incident about early farming I remember is my father debating letting me take home a six-horse team on a 28-run drill or driving an old homemade truck, a combination of Rugby rear end and Model T transmission. The only seat was the gas tank. I was only 7 years old at the time and was trapping gophers in the field. After much consideration, he decided the truck might be the safest because of horses' unexpected temperament. He put the truck in low gear and set me off for home — 1½ miles down the road. I managed to keep it between the two ditches and drove into the yard. With my mother anxiously watching as I came near the house, I proudly turned to look at her and turned the wheel at the same time and stopped against a two-foot concrete post. Only damage was the page wire fence and my pride!

In 1947 I married Elsie Fried of Vegreville and I

took over the family farm. We farmed there for 17 years. Five children were born while we were there. Carolyn, Mrs. Glenn Parker, Invermere, B.C. Glen and Rodney, both married and living in Edmonton now. Rowena and Dale still at Rimbey, Alberta.

We sold out in 1964 and have rented the farm ever since — going home occasionally to pick saskatoons and look after the renters.

Since then I worked for John Deere as partsman in Stony Plain and Edmonton for 2 years. I spent one year with my brother Harold helping him with his dairy venture at Holden.

In 1965 we moved to Sherwood Park where I worked at construction.

In Sept. 1974 I moved my family to Rimbey to manage an Embryo Transplant operation with Exotic cattle with my brother Earl and four other partners. After 4 years the demand for transplants did not warrant continuation of the operation. The company dispersed in April 1978.

At the present time I am in a partnership operating an independent lumber business known as Tydewater Lumber at Rimbey, Alberta.

My hobby is raising and showing fullblood Simmental cattle. The old saying still holds true, "You can take the boy from the farm but you can't take the farm from the boy".

Gizoski, Peter and Rose

In 1909 Peter was born in Poland. He arrived in Canada with his mother Mary, one sister Jean, and



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Gizoski, 1933.

one brother George in 1921. Upon arrival they settled in Calgary with the Stayuras for a year. Later they settled in the Polska area where Mary Gizoski was united in marriage with Ludislav Ogonoski. Pete finished his schooling at Polska.

In 1933 Pete married Rose Stefanizyn, daughter of Tony and Justina. Rose was born at Flat Lake, Alberta, in 1912. She came to the Holden district in 1925 with her parents. She took her schooling at Fairview School before they moved to the Kopernick area where they made their home. They were both active members of the Ukrainians Catholic Ascension Church.

Peter died in 1974 at the age of sixty-eight. Rose moved to Viking in 1975 where she resided until her passing in 1982 at the age of seventy.



Grampa Ogonoski, George Gizoski, Betty Ann, Grandma Ogonoski, Jean French, Irene and Bob.

Rose and Peter had three children:

Jean, born at Viking, Alberta in 1934 married Joe Milimaka in 1957. They had three children; a son Wayne (deceased in 1958), Greg, radiographer at Hanson's Engineering, Edmonton, and a daughter Debra, a computer operator who is attending Concordia College in Edmonton.



Darren, Gloria, Debbie, Greg, Jean, Rose Gizoski, Audrey, Doug, Kathy, Ted, Joe.

Theodore, (Ted) born at Viking in 1938, married Gloria Tchida of Edmonton. They have two children; Doug and Kathy are still going to school.

Audrey, born at Viking in 1945, married Len Bilawchuk of Edmonton. They have three children, Darren, Dwayne (deceased) and Leanne.

Glaim, Sigurd and Family

by Arthur Glaim

My father, Sigurd Glaim, was born in Norway in 1881 and emigrated to the United States at the age of nineteen. My mother Marie, born in Norway, came to the U.S. when she was eight to join her father and brothers. My parents were married in South Dakota where they resided until they moved, with their three children, to Holden, Alberta in 1912. My mother's father Terje Berg came to Holden with them.



Sigurd Glaim with grandchildren, Marlene, Marvin, Donna and Mrs. Arthur Glaim. (1952)



Back Row: Arthur Glaim (1954). Middle Row: Eva Marlene Glaim, Mrs. Sigurd Glaim, Sylvia (Glaim) Myhre. Front Row: Marvin and Donna Glaim.

Subsequently my parents lived at Bentley Lake, Round Lake, Ethel Lake and lastly Cold Lake; my father being employed in the milling industry. Father passed away there in 1954 and Mother in 1958.

We were a family of seven. Clarence lives at Houston, B.C. Harold passed away in 1930. Arthur, myself, and my wife Elna live at 5205-58 St. in Grande Centre, Alberta. Sylvia and Eddie live at Houston, B.C. Ralph who died in 1970, is buried there. Allan lives in Terrace, B.C.

Grandfather Terge Berg, moved with my parents to Bentley Lake where he resided until 1935, when he rejoined my parents at Ethel Lake. He passed away in 1936 and was laid to rest in the Protestant Cemetery at Cold Lake.



Allan, Eddie and Pat Glaim.

Good, John and Margaret as recalled by Richard John Good (Jack)

The Good family settled south of Holden in June of 1919. Joe, Dick, William, Jim and John (Jack) were veterans of World War I, and had bought Sol-



John and Margaret Good.

diers' Settlement Board land. Joe and his family settled on land next to the old Kennedy place, and Dick onto the land now owned by "the little Joes". My parents, Jack and Margaret (Maggie), and me little Jack, located on SE 32-48-16-W4. I was five and had lived in Winnipeg with my mother's family until then. My plucky little mother took on the job of being a farm wife and making a home for my father's parents and his brothers, William, Jim and Tom. Tom worked in a butcher shop in Holden. Later Jim moved onto his own place with his parents, the NE 32-48-16-W4. There my grandfather died. Bill owned the quarter west of Jim's. When he married May, a sister of Mrs. Marriage, they lived in the old Ritland homestead house.

Like many veterans the Goods had been city folks and had never farmed before. They had much to learn the hard way, but they had some grand times doing it. My bachelor uncles helped keep things exciting. Later our home became one of the gathering places for the South Holden Community Club dances. By then my brothers Ernest and David had been born. Our father was very active in community affairs, especially sports. He was on the school board of Vermillion Valley. Several teachers boarded at our house over the years — which sometimes could be a disadvantage from my point of view. In 1937 my father died. My mother was determined to stay on the farm though it was a struggle. In 1943 she married Lars Ritland and moved to his home. That same year

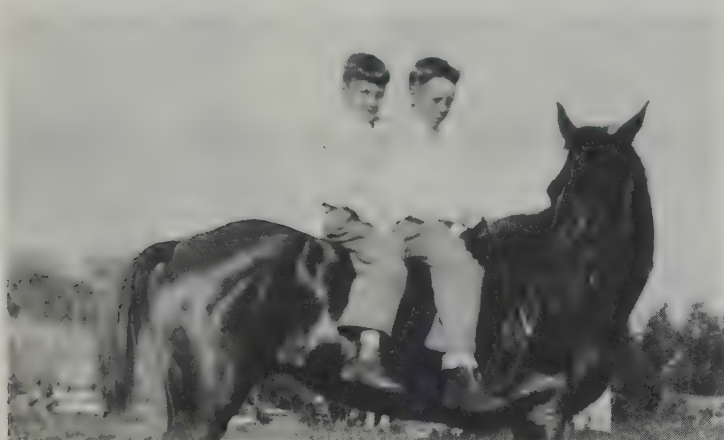


Jack, Dave and Ernie Good.

I married Eleanor Madsen. She continued to teach at Talbot and Holden while we also farmed. In 1950 we moved into Holden with our two girls, Kitty and Margery, and lived above Liden's store. In 1956 we decided to try sunny California and are still here in North Hollywood. We have two grandchildren. Kitty works for the schools and Margery is an auditor.

The other Goods who bought land at Holden all left in time. Joe and Gerty homesteaded at Goodrich

then moved to Vancouver where their six children still live. Dick, who had married Viola Story in Holden also moved to Goodrich where they lived for many years before moving to Edmonton. Viola continued to teach there. Their two adopted children live in Edmonton. Jim Good returned to Winnipeg where he married and had two children. His wife and daughter are still living in the Vancouver area. Bill Good lived in Vancouver and Victoria. His children are also there. Tom returned to Edmonton where he married and had one son. He later lived in Vancouver and Kelowna where his wife Dolly, and son Ken still live.



Dave and Ernie Good on horse.

Good, Ernest

Ernest, second son of Margaret and John Good, was born in Winnipeg, lived on the farm southwest of Holden (SE 32-48-16) and attended Vermillion Valley school until going into Holden to take grade IX and high school.

His brother Jackie laughingly tells of the time Ernie and younger brother Dave, still too small to saddle a horse, pulled the saddle into the hay loft by throwing a rope over a rafter, tying the saddle to one end and the other end to the horse's tail. The original idea was to make a swing up there with the saddle as a seat. They made the mistake of using a knot that tightened around the horse's tail so tight that Jackie had to come to the rescue. Undaunted by this mishap, these adventurous young boys led a cow to a position below the loft door and lowered the saddle. The cow didn't take too kindly to the situation when, as the boys tried to get on, the saddle slipped under her belly and she took off for parts unknown. Again Jackie had to come to the rescue! When he found the cow, there wasn't much left of the saddle and the boys were in real trouble — still with no swing and no ride.

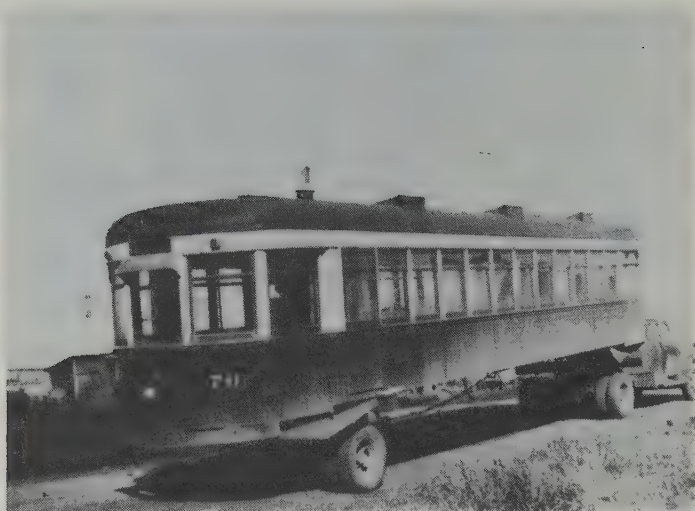
Being exceptionally sports minded, Ernie spent most of his leisure time playing baseball, fastball,



The Ernie Good family. Back Row: Eugene Danilak, Denise and Jim Warawa, Ernie, Frank and Daryl Andruchow, Jim Lusk. Second Row: Elaine Danilak, Sharon Andruchow, Shelly Lusk, Ernest Danilak. Seated: Judy Danilak, Olive holding Darcy Warawa, Terry Lusk. Front Row: Jody Andruchow, Jason and Karen Lusk.

hockey and later — curling. The hockey players in 1937-38 had to be a hardy lot. Ernie recalls driving into town from Olaf Chetney's with horses and sleigh, one and a half miles north of town, then riding in the back of a truck which had straw in it and a tarp over top for protection, to go as far as Wainwright to play hockey with the Holden senior team. The roads were not high grades as they are today and at times they had to do a lot of shovelling and pushing to get to their destination. The games were played in open air rinks and in very cold weather at times.

Ernie worked in the creamery in Holden where he obtained steam engineer papers, then managed the Burns Creamery in North Battleford, Sask. for a time until it was sold. In 1945 he returned to Holden and in the fall he married Olive Armstrong who had a hair-dressing shop in town. The winter of 1946 they purchased Abner Logan's share of the dray service (horses and all) and a year later Roy Andrew's share. Shoeing horses on Sunday became a weekly ritual for some time. A good number of the young boys spent hours riding around on the dray wagon and water wagon with Ernie or his drivers. In 1950 he purchased Nick Symboluk's freight truck and after several years of hauling freight, grain and gravel with several trucks, he decided to haul freight with semi-trailers. One morning in the fall of 1951, people on their way to work couldn't believe their eyes! There was a streetcar in Holden — on Ernie Good's truck! It was on its way out to Minor Churun's farm to become a chicken coop. It was reported that — coming down MacDougall Hill in Edmonton with the streetcar —



Streetcar brought to Holden by Ernie Good in 1951 to be used as chicken coop on Minor Charun's farm.

Minor had his door open — ready to jump! And no wonder!

Over the years the family, to which four girls had been added, helped with the business by doing books, collecting, working at the bottle depot and even assisting sometimes with unloading the freight truck. The fall of 1973, a daughter and her husband, Terry and Jim Lusk, bought the business. Ernie then went to work in Edmonton for Zeidler Forest Industries as a steam engineer and worked there for seven years. In 1980 when the plant began to use hot oil instead of steam, he moved to Slave Lake to work for Weldwood of Canada. Because they did not want to sell their house in Holden, commuting over the last nine years has put a good many miles on the Goods' vehicles. Besides keeping books for Good's Transport, Olive had a hairdressing shop in the house from 1960-66, worked for two years in the creamery office and five years as secretary at the Holden School. She belongs to the Royal Purple Lodge and is active in the United Church. Ernie belongs to the B.P.O. Elks and the Legion. The girls, when at home belonged to Brownies and Guides, were in school sports and were in Sunday School and choir.

Daryl married Frank Andruchow, they live in Edmonton and have two girls, Sharon and Jody.

Judy married Eugene Danilak, they live in Leduc and have two children, Ernest and Elaine.

Terry married Jim Lusk, they operate Good's Transport in Holden and have three children, Shelly, Karen and Jason.

Denise married Jim Warawa, they have just transferred to Provost from Redwater and have a son, Darcy.

Goodwin, Jack and Myrtle (Sorgen)

Myrtle Sorgen had been a telephone operator at the Holden telephone office from 1919 to 1921. She

married Jack Frame Goodwin who came to Holden as a bank teller at the Royal Bank in 1920. They were married on Christmas day, 1921, at the Presbyterian manse in Edmonton. They had eight children. They were: Hazel 1923, Myrtle 1924, John 1926, Hubert 1927, Gwenneth 1929, Joyce 1931, James 1934, and Charles (Ted) 1936.



Myrtle Goodwin.



Jack Goodwin.

Jack left the Bank in 1921, and he and Myrtle moved back to Sovereign, Sask., where his parents lived. They moved back to Holden and bought the Stewart farm (now Keith) one mile west of Holden. They had a brace of six Clydesdale horses and started a herd of Jersey cattle and also had a Jersey Bull named Hamlet. Jack started working as secretary of the municipality of Beaver Lake in 1930, commuting back and forth to Ryley by car. Then the depression came and he moved the family to Ryley. Jack had a severe stroke in 1937 and took the family back to Sovereign, Saskatchewan to the farm there. In 1940, the family moved to Bounty, Sask. as there was a High School there. Jack's health improved to the extent that he wanted to try market gardening and moved to Lumsden, Sask. in 1943. In 1944 the heavy frost ruined the root crop and Jack and Myrtle decided to move to Fairy Sask. where Opal (Myrtle's sister) and Emil Bergum owned a garage, and Jack did their bookkeeping. Jack's health finally failed and he died in 1948.

In 1949 Myrtle decided to go back to her original vocation of telephone operator, and took the three youngest children, Joyce, Jim and Ted to Chauvin, Alberta, where her sister Amanda Coates ran the telephone office, and Myrtle and Joyce helped run the board.

In 1950, the oldest son, Gordon persuaded Myrtle to go to Calgary, where there was more oppor-



Jack Goodwin family; Marion, Orbin, Jack, Gwenn, Myrtle, Gordon, Hazel, Joyce, Ted and Jim.

tunity for the family. Myrtle lived in Calgary for nineteen years, until 1969, when she decided to move to the west coast, and lived at White Rock with her sister Agnes Klewer. Myrtle now lives in Surrey, B.C. She is 82, in good health and is enjoying her retirement years, oil painting and playing the organ. She has seventeen great grandchildren.

Her daughter Hazel a teacher, married Cal Crickett, a farmer, in 1946. They live at Bickleigh, Sask. and have three married children; Clifford, Sanford and Colleen.

Daughter Myrtle Marion, also a teacher, married a war veteran, Lorne Stark in 1946. They live at Waskesiu Lake and their children are Leslie, Lenard, Linden and Lowell.

John Gordon, a businessman, married Audrey Gerrish in 1947, and has six children; Ruby, Sandra, James, David, Marie and Betty. Gordon passed away in 1971, and Audrey lives in Calgary. Gordon founded a company called Siesmic Service Supply in Calgary. He served in the Navy during World War II.

Hubert Orbin, a bookkeeper, married Joyce Gardiner in 1963, and has four children, Ronald, Kathy, Karen and Jack. Orbin is a statistician for the Calgary School Board. He also did a stint in the R.C.A.F.

Gwenneth Jean, a teacher, married a farmer and R.C.A.F. veteran, Frank Campbell in 1949. They have three children, Scott, Shelley and Cal James. After farming at Ethelton, Sask., they lived in Calgary and St. Albert before moving to B.C. in 1969, where Frank bought a trailer court. He then went back to welding, a trade he learned on the farm. They live at Delta, B.C.

Joyce Evelyn, a bookkeeper, married Roger Poli, a French Chef whom she met in Bermuda, in 1959. They established a restaurant in San Rafael, California. Their family are; Phillippe, Tammy, Marius, Nicole and Claudine.

James Phillip, an engineer, married Donna Hodkin in 1955. They have a daughter, April. Jim is Area Engineer for Inland Gas, and they reside in Trail, B.C.

Charles Edward (Ted), a businessman, married Joeanna Bradford in 1956. They have two children, Gregory and Christine. Ted is Sales Manager for Western Canada Steel.

Gorrie, Anton and Katherine

It was March, 1911 when Frank and Anna Welter, with their two daughters, Margaret and Katherine left their homeland, Diekweiler, Luxembourg to seek opportunities in America, arriving in Luverne, Minnesota. Three months later, the family journeyed to Holden to reside on the old Mohs farm south of town, with memories of swarms of mosquitoes. Later, in 1913 from Wandre, Belgium, followed Anton and Francis Gorre (later adopted as Gorrie by usage in the new land) with their mother Madeline.



Tony Gorrie and son Harvey.

The Peace River country beckoned and in 1915 the two families trekked north to the Sexsmith-Grande Prairie area. Anton, better known as "Tony" joined the Canadian Army in 1918 but did not see active duty. In 1919, Tony sought the hand of "Kate". They were married in 1920, and were once again attracted to the quality of life offered in the Holden area. They took up new residence to the north on the Adam Dorin place until 1929 when the urge of town life brought the family, including Harvey and Norman, to live in the historical Mumford Rooming House, which Tony renovated into a comfortable home, still occupied by Kate.

Tony operated the dray service in Holden and was considered the village handyman. He practised his trade in sheet metal work until 1942, when he pur-

chased and expanded the local pool hall, to be known as the Gorrie Recreation Hall. For some thirty years, he provided local mail delivery from the passenger train to the Holden post office. In the last nine years he was also the congenial rural mail carrier until his untimely death in 1951. His talents were used widely by the citizenry and is best exemplified by his efforts to provide for his family one of the first domestic hot and cold running water systems in Holden in the 1930's.

Tony and Kate brought three sons into the world. Harvey in 1920, who lost his life in service to his country in 1943, is buried in a military cemetery in Holyhead, Wales. Norman in 1924, served in active duty in both the navy and air force only to spend the last months of the war convalescing in Inverness Hospital in Scotland. Norman and his Scottish lass, Helen (McFarlane), raised five girls and three boys (Sandra, the eldest, deceased). He has spent most of his married life in B.C. now residing in Osoyoos as a senior municipal employee. Ralph, born in "Mumford House" in 1931 became a school teacher, entered the school superintendency in 1964 and presently resides in Vegreville where he and his wife Emily (Sodownyk) raised a son and a daughter. Kate was married in 1955 to Roy Nichols who had emigrated from Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan.



Roy and Kate Nichols.

The Gossman Family

Laurence Gossman emigrated with his parents to Olds, Alberta from Sioux Rapids, Iowa in 1902.

In 1906 they moved to a location two miles west of Viking.

After being a Wawanesa Insurance agent and



Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Gossman.

working on irrigation projects in southern Alberta for two summers, he joined the army and saw service overseas during World War I with the 49th Battalion C.E.F. Upon discharge from the army, he learned the trade of butter-making in the Viking Creamery. When forced to leave the creamery for health reasons, he began farming five miles northwest of Viking. In 1924 he and Ellen Appleby of Holden were married. She had grown up on the family farm three and a half miles east of Holden, having come to Holden from Britton, South Dakota with her folks in 1902.

The fall of 1929 saw them move to the N.E. 17-49-15 where they resided until their deaths, Laurence in the summer of 1959 and Ellen in the spring of 1963.



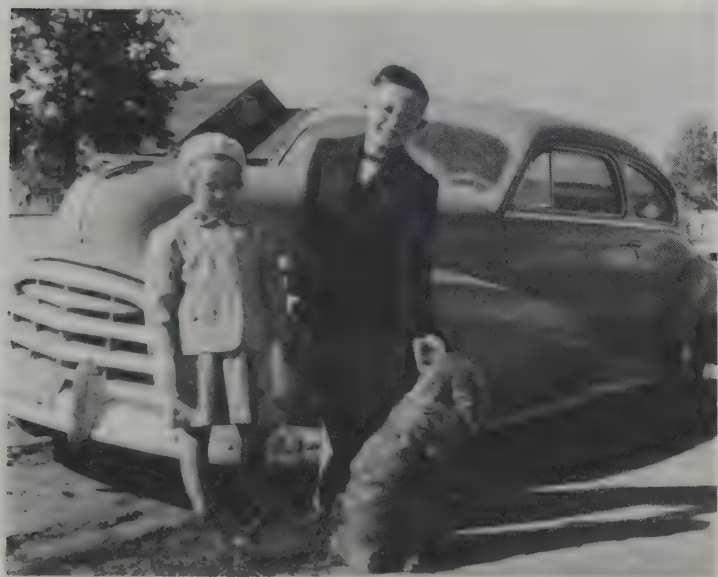
Laurence Gossman clerking for John A. Giebelhaus at an auction sale.

A familiar sight in the district during the early forties to mid fifties was Laurence Gossman clerking auction sales for John A. Giebelhaus. Ellen was known far and wide for her willingness to help and her ability as a practical nurse and seamstress.

Their children were Verne of Holden married to Dolores Guiltner of Langley, B.C., Lorraine (Mrs. Leonard Davick of Ryley), Mary (Mrs. Walter Oslund of Ryley), Lois (Mrs. Stanley Wrzesien of Viking) and Norman of Buck Creek, Alberta, married to Shiela Maine of Buck Creek.

Greenwood, Arthur and Helen **by Helen Greenwood**

We arrived in Holden in September 1941, having purchased W. R. Stewart's drugstore, located on the west side of main street next to Boyd's Meat Market. In 1945 we moved into a new store on the other side of the street. This store was built on the site of Emond's print shop.



Anne and Doug Greenwood.

We built a home in 1944 on 3rd Avenue East, next to John Laskosky's.

Two children were born while we lived in Holden. Douglas, married with two pre-school children lives at Whistler Mountain, B.C. Anne, now Mrs. N. W. Stokes lives at Vernon, B.C. where both Anne and Nat teach in a senior secondary school.

I was on the board of the United Church, and a cub leader for a number of years. Art was mayor of Holden for five years, is a Past Master of the Holden Masonic Lodge, was active in Air Cadets, Chamber of Commerce and the local square dance club. We both played badminton and curled.

We sold our store and house to Vic and Kay Dowhaniuk in 1955 and moved to Victoria, after fourteen good and very happy years in Holden.



Skating Party on C.N.R. Dam. Pearl and Don Allan, Austie Stanton, Art and Helen Greenwood, Margaret Stanton, Evelyn Erickson, Shirley Duncan, Ed. Erickson.



Art Greenwood and Horace Soley.

We were both born and educated in Edmonton and in 1940 bought a drug store in Strome and lived there before moving to Holden.

Grezyshyn, Joe

Joe, with his father and mother, four sisters and two brothers arrived in the Holden district in 1923. They settled on the NE¼ 26-49-16. His father passed away in 1937. Joe and his mother stayed on the farm and rented the land to the neighbors. In 1943 Joe started hauling water to the residences in Holden with his team of horses. He continued until running water was installed in Holden. His mother passed away in 1961. Joe retired and stayed on the farm until the fall of 1982 when he moved into the Holden Seniors Lodge where he now makes his home.



Joe Grezsyshyn and his water tank.

Grinde, Albert Fredrich

Albert, son of Henry and Olga Grinde, began farming together with his father in 1931. In 1937 he took over the management of the farm and continued to increase and improve upon it. In 1955 Lydia Schultz became Albert Grinde's wife, and two years later in 1957 their son Elgar Austin came along. Three years later in 1960 Lorna Marion was born. As a family they continued to live on the same farm Henry bought back in 1918.



Lorna, Lydia, Elgar and Albert Grinde.

Upon graduating from Holden High School, Elgar continued his education at NAIT. Two years later, in 1977, he graduated from Biological Sciences. After working for two and one half years in Edmonton, he returned to the farm to take over management. He has subsequently made that his home and career.

Lorna took a different route; after graduating in 1978, she spent one year at Briercrest Bible College in Caronport, Saskatchewan majoring in music. Finding new goals to work toward, she went to the University of Alberta for three years, working on a Bachelor of Science degree. Presently she is in Toronto studying at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College and hopes to combine that career with Medicine at a later date.

Grinde, Ernest

Ernest was born in 1907 on the homestead west of Bruce. He attended the consolidated school in Bruce. The school bus, a bob sled in the winter and a democrat in the summer, was driven by Dave Davis. Later when this convenience was discontinued the children drove themselves. In the early 20's the West Bruce School was built on two acres of Mike Grinde's C.P.R. quarter. Ernest attended school here and recalls the teacher as being Mrs. V. Church.



Ernest Grinde and Elsie Brandt, 1932.

In 1926, Ernest bought the Tom Hall quarter SE 28-48-15 for \$1200.00 from the Royal Bank of Canada. That year he also bought a new Model T Ford for \$700.00. In 1927 he broke twenty-five acres with an eight horse outfit. In 1929 he traded some horses and money for a new 18-36 Hart Parr tractor for \$2800.00. He used it to break many acres for himself and others in the district.

In 1932 he married Elsie Brandt at Lashburn, Saskatchewan. Elsie was born in 1914 near Berlin, Germany and came to Canada in 1927 with her parents, to the Bruederheim district, later settling in the Lashburn area.



Ernest Grinde family.

Ernie and Elsie lived with the senior Grindes for three years, and in 1935 purchased the Herman Frederick farm, NW 28-48-15 for \$3,000.00. In 1943 he purchased the Adolf Sagert farm N½ 26-48-15 and moved there in the spring of 1944. In 1945 the Fredericks farm was sold to John Pozerniuk.

In the fall of 1948 they had a sale and moved to Wetaskiwin, but continued to farm for three years. Joseph Dychkowski farmed the land for several years, and in 1974 Ernie sold the land to Bill Dary.

For twenty-two years he worked in the trucking business hauling gravel, and for seven years he worked for Denham Ford Sales. He retired in 1978.

The children born to this union were:

Donald, born in 1934, married Margaret Suitor in 1962. They farm at Vulcan and have two children, Douglas and Lynette.

Dorothy born in 1936, married George Finkus in 1976, and they live at White Rock, B.C. George is an offshore driller. They have one son, Daniel.

Norman, born in 1942 married Miriam Stevens in 1970. They live in Wetaskiwin and he instructs in the use of heavy equipment. They have one son, David.

Gordon, born in 1944 married Judy Taylor in 1969. They live in Wetaskiwin and he works as a heavy duty mechanic. They have two sons, Kelly and Dale.

Brian, born in 1950 married Heather Hanna in 1981. They live in Edmonton and he has a professional janitorial service.

Ernie and Elsie make their home at 5316-45 avenue, Wetaskiwin.

Grinde, Fred, Family

Johann Grinde married Justine Wolter and emigrated from Germany to Russia between 1868 and 1873. The home property was in Shitomer, province of Volenhyn in Russia.

They had six sons, Julius, Adolph, August, Mike, Henry and Fred, as well as two daughters, Mari (Grinde) Maves and Stella (Grinde) Kelm. Fred was the youngest, born in Dubrowka, Volenhyn, Russia in 1884. He immigrated to Canada in 1903 at the age of nineteen years. He lived with his brother August, and his family in the Wetaskiwin area, and was a member of the Bruderfelt Moravian Church, and played clarinet in the church band. This church is now located in the Millwoods district of Edmonton.

In 1914 he married Adeline Selky, whose parents resided in the Strathcona area. Fred and Adeline moved to the Bruce district, where their first child, Antonia was born on 1-49-15 north of Bruce in 1916. The second daughter Augusta was born south of Bruce in 1918. Fred then obtained employment at Swift's Packing Plant and the family lived in Edmonton. In 1919 the family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A. where Adeline's parents had resided. Shortly after their arrival at the home of her parents, Adeline took ill and passed away. The bereaved Fred and his two daughters returned to Alberta.



Toni, Mrs. Grinde, Gertie, Gusti, Clara and Fred Grinde.

In 1920 Fred purchased the S.E. 4-50-15 north of Holden from Sam Langum and in the spring of 1927 Fred married Olga Renn, whose parents August and Emelia farmed south of Holden. Prior to her marriage, Olga worked at Swift's Packing Plant, Edmonton. The family now included a two year old daughter, Clara, born in Edmonton in 1925. To this union were born seven children, Gertrude (1929), Reinold (1930), Arthur (1931), Evelyn (1933), Rueben (1935), Edward Benjamin (1937) and Helen (1942).



Grinde Brothers and sisters, 1979: Rueben, Art, Clara, Reinold, Ben. Seated: Gertie Mizera, Helen Ruskenveld, Evelyn Davies.

In 1937 they built a large hip roof barn, which was struck by lightning and burned in 1956. They had one of the first Model A Ford cars in the district, also a McLaughlin Buick. In 1928 they had a blue Essex which had to be pulled by a team of horses, Prince and Roger, many times. Fred's first tractor was a Cross Motor Case.

In 1930 they sold a quarter of land to Ross Zwierschke, and in 1939 Olga purchased an eighty acre parcel of land, SW 4-50-15 from Oscar Nordstrom. A gravel pit was opened and one acre of land was sold to the County of Beaver for \$500.00. Olga later purchased a half section from Russel Loga in 1944.

Olga's health failed and she passed away in 1954 at the age of forty nine. Fred passed away in 1967 at eighty two years of age.

Antonia (Toni) was married to Henry Johnson, and they had three children, Adeline, Elwood and Bill. They moved to B.C. where they farmed. Henry Johnson passed away in 1950. Toni worked at various jobs. Later she married Wilf Penill and they had one son Edward. Adeline married Ken Brown and they have two children. Elwood is married to Joyce Andler, and they have two boys. They reside in B.C. Bill is married to Sandy Oliver, and they have two



Toni and Henry Johnson with children Adeline, Elwood and Bill.

children. Bill is a corporal with the police force in Regina, Saskatchewan. Edward married Tony Scarff. They have two children and reside in B.C.



Gusty George, Toni and Wilf Penill, Eddie Penill and Raymond George.

Augusta (Gusty) married Stanley George and they lived in the Imperial school district of Vegreville for many years. In the 1950's they moved to Aldergrove, B.C. where they still reside. They had four children, Sylvia, Beatrice, Ronald and Raymond, and eight grandchildren. Sylvia married Lloyd Bellamy and they have two children. Beatrice married Norman MacLeod and they have three children. Ronald married Margaret Michell in 1969 and they have three children.

Raymond resides with his parents in B.C.

Clara Grinde attended Woodside and Longridge Schools and completed her education at Holden High School. She now resides in San Fransisco, California.



Gertie and Rudy Mizera family. Standing: Barry, Terry, Pamela, Garry, Sheila. Seated: Sharon, Faye holding Tyler, Nicholas, Gertrude, Rudy.



Jean and Reinhold Grinde's Silver Wedding Anniversary, 1981.

Gertrude married Rudy Mizera in 1949. They had five children; Sharon, Terence, Sheila, Gary and Barry. They have one grandchild. They reside east of Ryley, where they farm. Both drive school buses for the County of Beaver. Rudy previously was town foreman in Ryley.

Sharon married Harvey Kropelnicki in 1974. Harvey became incapacitated in 1975 and is a resident of Grandview Nursing Home. Sharon teaches school in Ryley. Terry married Fay Strilchuk. They have one son. He farms and works with Voyageur Petroleum. Sheila is employed by Luscar Coal as a secretary in Edmonton. Gary works for Imperial Oil, Strathcona Refinery and Barry is attending school in Ryley.

Reinold married Jean Hjelter of Ryley in 1957. They have six children: Brian, Larry, Debra, Linda, Judith and Cindy Lou. He started trucking in 1956 with a 1950 Chev. gravel truck and his business has



Reinhold Grinde family: Larry, Linda, Brian. Seated: Debbie, Grandma Hjelter, Cindy and Judy, 1981.

progressed under the name of Hilltop Construction Ltd., to a fleet of trucks, loaders, crushers, etc. The family residence and business is located on the former Maurice Ruskenveld acreage.

Brian is presently employed in Edmonton. Larry works with his dad in the gravel business, but owns and operates his own two gravel trucks. Debbie completed a year at Lakeland College in Vermilion, receiving a certificate in Early Childhood Development. Linda, Judy and Cindy Lou are all students in Holden School.



Art and Lillian Grinde on their 25th Wedding Anniversary with children. Jim, David, Lillian, Art, Kevin, Clifford, Janet in front.

Arthur married Lillian Chappel of Ryley in 1957. They had six children: Bonnie, (deceased 1957-59), Jim, David, Clifford, Kevin and Janet. Art worked for the Holden School Division and Swift's Packing Plant. In 1959 he purchased SW 9-49-15, the former Neil Crimmin farm, where they still reside. Jim is employed by Canada West Inspection Services and lives in Sherwood Park. David purchased three quarters of land in 1980 and farms south of Holden. Clifford owns and operates a livestock hauling business in the Holden area. Kevin and Janet are both students in the Holden School.

Evelyn married Allan Davies in 1959. They have three children; Bradly, Carla and Diane. They live in Coquitlam, B.C.



Rueben and Elaine Grinde with children Karen, Kent and baby Travis, 1982.

Rueben and Elaine (Olson) both of Holden were married in 1971. Elaine, a registered nurse, worked several years at the Vegreville Health Unit and the Viking General Hospital. They have three children; Kent, Karen and Travis. They reside on SW 16-49-15, the former Ted Appleby farm. They have a large farming operation and raise Simmental cattle and registered Quarter Horses.



Ben and Carol Grinde with children Pam and Troy, 1981.

Edward (Ben) married Carol Field of Bruce in 1972. They have three children; Pam, Troy and Jodi. They reside on NW 9-49-14, the former Harvey Field farm. As well as mixed farming they have a herd of Charolais and Simmental cattle, and raise registered Quarter Horses.



Helen Ruskenveld and daughters Sherry, Bobby-Jo and Elaine.

Helen married Len Smith in 1963. They resided in Edmonton where their daughter Sherrie Lynn was born. In 1967 Helen with her daughter moved to Holden where she operated a Beauty Salon. In 1970 Helen married Robert Ruskenveld. They had two

daughters, Bobby-Jo-Ann and Elaine. They operated a trucking business "Pembina Trucking" for several years. In 1981 Helen with her girls moved to Westlock where they purchased a house and Helen dispatches her trucking business and also operates an answering service. The girls all attend school in Westlock.

Grinde, Henry

Henry Grinde was born in 1882 near Dubrowka, Shitomir, Wolheinien, Russia and is the sixth child of a family of eight: six boys, two girls. In 1901 he was the first of his family to immigrate to Canada along with his brother August. Henry's new home was in the then known area of Strathcona. From there he found employment during the winter on the railroad for 50¢ a day, and during summers on farms in the Ellerslie area. In 1905 he filed on a homestead east of Bruce. Finding that land too barren he abandoned that for a new site in New Sarepta in 1906. There the situation was reversed; the timber was too big. Clearing the land seemed to be an insurmountable task and in 1907 he cancelled that homestead for another one very close to the earlier one back in the Bruce area.



Henry, Olga, Albert and Ella Grinde.

His year in New Sarepta was not totally futile. Olga Schmidt had come from Russia in 1904. This young lady was to become Henry's wife in 1913. Their home for the first five years was the newly settled homestead at Bruce. There they had their two children, Albert Frederick, presently of Holden, and Ella now in Edmonton. In 1918, the Bruce homestead was sold and the family moved to a new farm nine miles northeast of Holden, located on E ½ 17-50-15.

This unbroken half section of land with no home to house his family proved to be a hard challenge to Henry, but he and his family remained there, gradually building and improving the farm until his retirement in 1937. After his retirement Henry and Olga

continued to live on the farm until 1955 when they moved to Edmonton to join their daughter. Seven years later, in 1962, Henry Grinde passed away. His wife Olga, continues to live in Edmonton with her daughter Ella Grinde.

Grinde, Michael

(1876-1954)

Michael Grinde immigrated to Canada in the late 1800's from Russia, after completing two years of compulsory training in the army. He settled in the Edmonton area where he worked on the farm of Philip Busenius. It was here that he met Pauline Lentz who later became his wife. They were married in 1903 in the Bruderfelt Moravian Church, now the



Michael and Pauline Grinde, 1903.

Millwoods district of Edmonton. They farmed in this area for several years and their first two daughters were born there. The oldest, Loeria, born in 1903, died in infancy. In 1904 Hertha (Hattie) was born. In 1906 Michael went to Bruce to file claim on a homestead for which he paid ten dollars. The location of this land was NE 28-48-14. To earn title for this farm twenty-five acres of land had to be broken and the people had to live on it for three years.

In June 1907, he started out from New Sarepta with a load of lumber for his homestead shack. The Old Battleford Trail was still covered with snow and at times "Mike" had to virtually dig out the three

horses in order to get through. In July of that same year the young Mrs. Grinde and her daughter Hattie came to the new homestead by horse and democrat (two seated buggy), and a day later their son Ernest was born.

It was at this time that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was being built. The family was often loaded on the stoneboat, which was drawn by oxen, and taken to watch the building of the tracks. This mode of transportation also took the family to the new Free Methodist Church in Bruce. To break the land Mike used two horses and an ox to pull the one shared walking plough.



Mike and Pauline Grinde's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Ruby, Hattie, Ernie, Mabel, Mike and Pauline, 1953.

Because of Pauline's health the family returned to Edmonton where Mike worked for Gainer's packing plant (1910). By this time there were three children. They stayed in Edmonton until 1911, and then moved back to Bruce where they rented the SE 36-48-15 from Mr. Coles. In 1912 Mike bought the Ben Heath homestead, NE 28-48-15, and later the C.P.R. quarter SW 33-48-15, two acres of which provided the site for the West Bruce School. The Grindes lived here until retiring to the Cross house in Bruce in 1943, after selling the land to Harry Hrabec. In 1947 they moved to Wetaskiwin where he died in 1954 and Pauline in 1958.

The children of this union were:

Loeria was born in 1903 and died in infancy.

Hattie was born in 1904 and died in 1976. She married Fred Teske. Their children are; Lillian, Helen, Daniel, Agnes, Gertie, Emma, Hazel, Ernie and Judy.

Ernest was born in 1907. He married Elsie Brandt. Their children are: Donald, Dorothy, Norman, Gordon and Brian. They live at Wetaskiwin.

Gertie married Bill Werner and lives at White Rock. They have one daughter, Muriel.



Ruby, Gertie, Ernie, Mabel.

Florence died at age eight and is buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Mabel married Lawrence Wilson in 1936 and lives in Wetaskiwin. Their children are: Laura, Maxine and Barbara.

Ruby married Dave Schierman in 1947 and lives at Vulcan. Their children are: Eunice, Michael and foster son Lyle Bow.

Grosland, Arne

by Lyle Grosland

Arne was born in Norway in 1880, the son of Hans and Caroline Grosland. To them were born five other children, Anna, Albertine, Christen, Helga and Sigurd who died in infancy in Norway.

The family immigrated to the Dakotas in 1894 where they stayed until 1901 when they immigrated to Canada. Hans Grosland farmed for a time at Bittern Lake, then took a homestead north of Holden where he farmed until he retired. Arne Gröslund first worked for a fellow named Thompson, taking settlers out from Wetaskiwin. In the winter he had a Watkins' contract and sold supplies from his covered medicine wagon. His territory was from Red Deer to Strathcona, where he got his supplies. Sometime in 1903 he came to where Holden is now, and started a general store. He got his supplies from Wetaskiwin at first, then later from Camrose. The store at first was just north of where the school is now, and when the railroad came through and Holden was started, the store was moved to main street.

In 1903 he decided to take a homestead, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-49-16. His brother Christen filed on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-49-16. He built a small log house and barn while he still had the store, but it was on the wrong side of the line, so he had to move them. Chris never did prove up his homestead.

Arne married Lillie Jacobson in 1907 and they



Hans Grosland family. Back Row: Arne, Albertine, Christian, Anna. Front Row: Hans, Helen and Caroline.

lived in Holden where Olive was born. She was the first child born in Holden when Dr. Farrel was first here. Arne Grosland served on the council for a short time when Holden first started. He did not stay in the store business too long after Holden was incorporated. The store was sold to Johnson and Hurum in 1909, and he went to live on his homestead where he farmed and raised cattle.

Hazel and I (Lyle) were born in the log house on the homestead. This house is still standing on the land that Joe Lupino now owns. It had only a dirt or clay floor at first, and one evening when a lightning storm came up, it struck the house. It went through the sod roof, down one milk pail and up another pail. Mother's sister Olga had a scissors in her hand and for a period of time she could not move her fingers as they were numb from the shock.

Arne sold the homestead and bought Section 4-50-16 in 1917. That summer Walter was born, so now there were four of us children. There was lots of open range so Dad continued to have a good herd of cattle, but the open range was soon gone.

Dad always seemed to have lots of horses and one he drove regularly, especially on a trip to town, was called Dick. He was very quiet and not afraid of anything when single, but if he was teamed with another horse and it jumped he was immediately ready to run. It so happened one day, going home from town, just as he turned off main street to go west, a dog Dr. Farrel had came out and scared the

young horse and off they went. They swung sideways and Dad fell out taking the lines with him and me also, as the line must have been over me. Mother and Walter were left in the buggy. Mother wrapped Walter in a blanket and dropped him on the ground behind the buggy, then jumped out herself. Right after she got out, the buggy caught a telephone pole and the team took off. Lars Ritland caught the team. Oscar Burnstad took us home after Mother got her leg bandaged up. I guess I must have been stunned as I do not remember much about it, except for sitting in the doctor's house.

Our farm seemed to be a place where many travellers stopped. People who were just passing through or selling goods, always managed to come in the evening, habitually asked if they could stay overnight. None were ever turned away. Watkins and Rawleigh's salesmen made regular stops both winter and summer.

When Arne Grosland bought the land, very little was cultivated so every summer was spent breaking the land.

In 1920 Evelyn Grosland was born, and Emery in 1929, so now there were six of us. Our school days going to Holmdene were good except in the spring when we had to cross a creek that often got very deep and we would have to stand up on the seat of the cart to keep from getting wet, but all in all they were happy times.

Olive Grosland went to Tacoma, Washington,



Grosland family: Lillie, Hazel, Lyle, Olive, Arne holding Walter.



Walter, Lyle, Hazel, Evelyn, Emery and Lillie Grosland (seated).

and married Bob Musser in 1931. In 1933 she passed away.

In 1933, Arne passed away in Holden from a heart attack.

Hazel married Clinton Armstrong in 1936. They had five daughters Joan, Deanna, Ardina, Ardith and Arlene. In September 1971, Hazel and Clint were in a car accident and they both passed away.

Lillie Grosland passed away in November 1972.

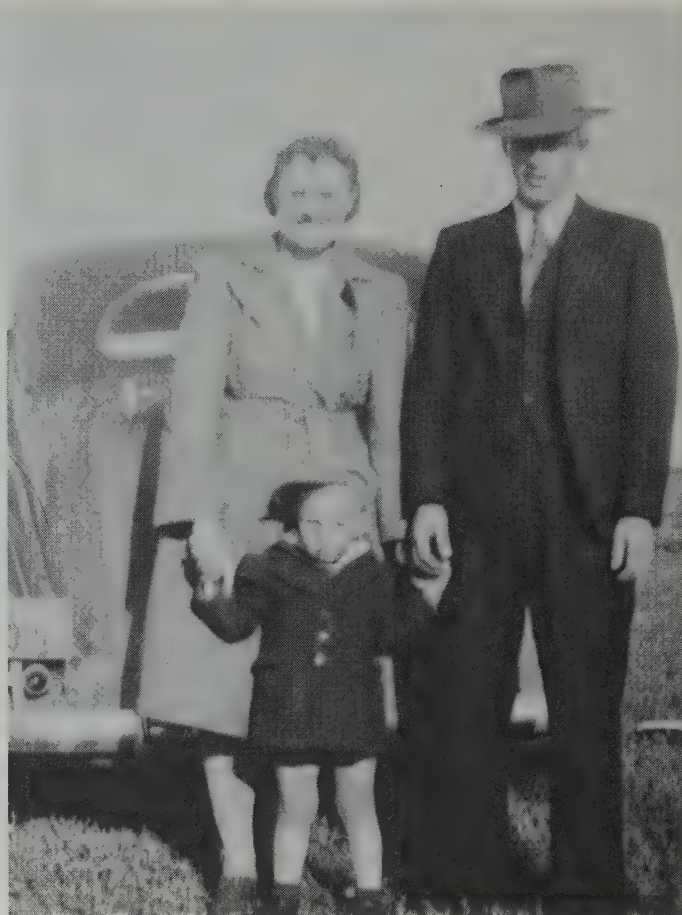
I, Lyle Grosland, married Dorothea Sorensen in 1937. We had one son, Grant, born in 1941. Dorothea passed away in 1950.

In 1956 I married Vernice Grube, and we had one daughter, Cheryl, born in 1957, and I also have two step daughters Margaret (Grube) Mason and Patty (Grube) Bilyk.

Walter Grosland married Evelyn McCarter in 1939. They had one son Warren, born in 1943. Walter was in a car accident and died in 1976.

Evelyn Grosland married Sid Handley in 1947. They have two children, Arne and Kristine.

Emery Grosland married Margaret Woodward in 1952. They have one daughter, Roberta. Emery works for the Royal Bank in Toronto.



Dorothea and Lyle Grosland with Grant.



Grant, Margaret, Lyle, Vernice, Patty and Cheryl Grosland.

I farmed the homeplace till 1978, when I had to retire for health reasons. I sold the farm and we now live in Holden, enjoying retirement.

Grosland, Walter and Evelyn by Evelyn Grosland Davis

Walter was born in 1917 at home on the farm six miles north of Holden. I remember him telling me of the happy times growing up with his brothers and sisters. His parents Arne and Lillie Grosland made a



Evelyn and Walter Grosland.

good home for their six children even though times were hard.

Walter had a great love for horses even at an early age. His mother told of him trying to harness a horse before he could lift the harness. He would take it all apart, climb on something and eventually get it on. He also had a lot of fun with his cousins, the Olsons and Christiansons, riding calves and breaking horses.

Granddad Grosland lived with them part of the time when Walter was a child. He enjoyed his granddad, and "old timers" told me of how Walter drove the horse and the two of them went joy riding and visiting friends. Granddad had lost a leg in a farm accident and Walter was his legs carrying and piling wood while Granddad split it.



Warren Grosland.

Walter went to Holmdene School in elementary grades and took his high school in Edson where he stayed with Aunt Helen Grosland Maxwell. Later he went to Vermilion School of Agriculture.

Walter and I were married in 1939. My parents, George and Maud McCarter farmed in the Sandstorm district. Walter and I farmed in the Holden area until 1959. We had one son Warren. He took his early schooling in Holden. In 1959 we sold our land to Dawne Keith and Walter went to work for Ogilvie Flour and Feeds. We moved to Edmonton and were later transferred to Abbotsford, B.C. Walter passed away in 1976.

Warren is living in Edmonton. He must have enjoyed playing in the Holden School Band as he is still in music. We have many happy memories of family and friends in Holden.

Grycan-Kwasny Families

Mrs. Mary Grycan came to Alberta from Austria at the age of five years with her mother Clara Umrysh. Her father Mike Umrysh had arrived in the Kopernick area a year earlier in 1907. As a young girl she loved sewing and music, learning to play a dulcimer at an early age. She accompanied her father playing at dances and weddings throughout the community.



Mary and John Kwasney (1963).

She married Anton Grycan in 1919 moving to the Plain Lake area where they remained for several years. Later they moved to Inland where "Tony" passed away. Following her husband's death Mary moved to Holden with her five young children, Mike, Nick, Paul, Bill and Annie. She bought a house from Alex Zawalek which was the third house east of the United Church. Mary worked hard at

running a laundry, cleaning offices and homes, and sewing for friends and neighbors. She became the official designer and seamstress for the many school Christmas concerts and festivals.

When World War II broke out her four boys joined the Armed Forces. Mike entered the army, Nick, Paul and Bill the navy.

Annie arrived in Holden at the age of eight months. Of her happy growing years she has fond memories of sliding down Olsen's hill, Christmas carolling, sleigh rides, church picnics and friendships that still remain.

Annie married Edward Halina in 1950. Her husband's teaching profession took them to many towns in Alberta where they have both served in many community organizations wherever they lived. Ed and Annie are now retired and live in Olds, Alberta. They have four children, Terry, Bill, Patricia and Jackie and one grandson.

Kwasny, John

John Kwasny came to Canada from the Ukraine at the age of fifteen with his parents and settled in Saskatchewan. Following his first wife's death he rode the rails looking for work to support his two daughters Helen and Stella. The train brought him to Holden where he found work as a carpenter. He set up a shop and lumberyard north of the cenotaph.

John Kwasny and Mary Grycan were married in 1942 and moved to Vancouver where he worked in the shipyards for two years. In 1944 they moved to Edmonton where they resided for twenty-two years. John retired from building in 1965. They moved to Vernon then. Here John worked at repairing and building violins and dulcimers until his death in 1969. He had always taken great pride in his work as a craftsman.

John's daughter Helen married Adolph Michalkow, and had four children. Stella married Nick Holowachuk and also had four children.

Mary continued living in Vernon until 1975 when she moved to Chilliwack residing close to her son and daughter-in-law Paul and Rita Grycan. Mrs. Kwasny (Grycan) is a member of the Chilliwack Senior Citizens' and the Salvation Army Women's League. She has 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Like Abraham, she "has seen her seed multiply in a land of milk and honey."

Ole and Anna Gullickson by Bertha

My parents, Ole and Anna Gullickson, were born in Telemarken, Norway. Dad came with his parents to Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1884 at the age of nine years. Mom came in 1910. They were married in

1911 and settled on a farm at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1913, they moved to Holden, Alberta making their home on Jacob Ritland's farm which Dad had rented in 1912. They became active members of the Lutheran church in Holden. Mom could speak very little English at that time so was happy to have so many Scandinavian people in the district.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Gullickson, Bertha, Adolph, Olaf. (1918)

Dad later rented a farm from Herman Swenson which became our next home. It was three miles from Holden. We could hear and see the train every day as it left Poe for Holden. Our closest neighbour was Alfred Logan until Taylors moved in. The house was a cottage roof frame building with a kitchen, pantry, living room and two bedrooms downstairs. The upstairs was unfinished and all in one room. It was heated with coal that Dad hauled with horses from Drumheller. A wood cook stove was used in the kitchen. A coal oil lamp was used for light and a coal oil lantern in the barn for doing chores.

In 1915, Dad filed on a homestead at St. Paul but never proved it up as the land was very stony. He later rented some land from Taylors. Besides growing grain, they raised cattle, hogs and poultry. They milked cows and churned butter from the cream. Mom always had hens setting on eggs in the spring which was her way of raising chickens. In the fall when cold enough, she butchered off the roosters and

ducks and hung them in an outside building to freeze as there were no deep freezes in those days. The hens were kept for laying. The eggs and butter were sold to Hurum's store in exchange for groceries. Mom did a lot of fancy work such as crocheting, embroidery, Hardanger work and knitting. During the war she did a lot of knitting for the Red Cross of which, I believe, Mrs. McVittie was the president. Mom carded wool and made her own quilts and braided many mats — nothing went to waste. She enjoyed her Norwegian baking such as Kavring, Tyn bröd, Flat bröd and Lefsa. From the milk she made cottage cheese, Gamel ost and Prim, and buttermilk and Römme Gröt for Dad, which was one of his favorite dishes.

Dad with his four horses had the job of grading a stretch of road from Holden towards Ryley. He built many brick chimneys, stacked a lot of grain for his friends during the stack threshing days, and being a fiddler, he was well known for his music and supplied music for many parties and dances.

He many times helped his friend Lars Ritland. One time when rounding up horses, the horse he was riding stumbled and fell after stepping in a badger hole. He was unconscious when Lars found him, but clear of the horse who was dead with a broken neck. Dad was taken to Dr. Farrell in Holden. Later his physician was Dr. Nordby at Camrose. He suffered many years from that accident but he could have been killed.

I remember the 'flu' epidemic during World War I — the sadness when a neighbour, I believe Bernt Chetney, came to tell us that Mrs. Lars (Lizzie) Ritland had passed away. Dad was asked to haul the casket to the graveyard which was done with horses. It was a very hard and sad day for Dad with Lars down with the 'flu' and unable to attend her funeral. Dad always wore a mask to cover his mouth when going anywhere and Mom would have a tin of formalin heating on the stove when he arrived. It was hard on the eyes but we all escaped the 'flu'.

Uncle Gust Haakenson, mom's brother, was homesteading at Sturgeon River. He knew of land for sale near his and encouraged Dad to buy it which he did in 1919 and paid \$1,000.00 for a quarter from Shorty Owens. We moved in the winter of 1920. Dad sold his steers to Lars Ritland but brought with him eleven cows, eight horses, one pig, chickens, ducks, and two dogs; plus machinery which included a new drill he paid \$126.00 for. Things were selling cheap those days. There was the furniture and all the other belongings, so was a lot to move, but the neighbours all helped haul and load the cars at Ryley — all very kind people. Karen Chetney and children, Knut and Ruth, spent a few days with us and helped Mom pack.

I remember the farewell party. Oscar Fjellstrom helped supply the music for dancing. Dad played a "spring dans" and what a surprise when Karen Chetney and Mom got up and did the "spring dans" — a Norwegian dance.

Mom and Dad liked Holden and had gathered many friends so it wasn't easy for them to leave and they never did get back to Holden again but were happy to have a visit from Inga Chetney, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ritland, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hanson and Leslie, Julia Logan, her four children and daughter-in-law.

We were three children in the family. I, Bertha Christine, born 1912 at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, U.S.A. married James Skarsgard who passed away in 1957. We had two children, Sigurd and Ann.

Olaf Herbert was born 1914 at Holden with Mrs. Evenson in attendance. He served with the Armed Forces in Canada and overseas during World War II, otherwise a farmer.

Adolph Hjalmer was born in 1916 in the Swenson house with Mrs. Evenson in attendance. Grandma Gullickson and Aunt Sarah were with us at the time. That night Dad broke and scarred his nose badly when in the dark — no electricity those days — he missed the step and fell with a comforter he was bringing down from upstairs. He and Olaf reside in the old farm house where Mom and Dad lived which was then known as Sturgeon River district, now known as Cookson.

Dad passed away from cancer in 1950 at the age of 74 and Mom after a lengthy illness in 1956 at the age of 80. Both are at rest in the St. Johns Cemetery, Sturgeon River.

Gunderson, Gunder **by Evelyn Mosby**

Gunder Gunderson was born in Oslo Norway in 1872, and as a small boy came to the U.S. They settled in Lennox South Dakota. As a young man he worked as a carpenter for 10¢ an hour. He married in 1902, and a year later a son was born. When Arthur was still a baby his mother died.

Gunder's ambition was to get a place of his own, so in the spring of 1910 he sold his belongings, and left with his son for Canada. His parents, the Angrim Gundersons lived in the Earling area. He came there in the fall of 1910, to a place which had been the An-ton Evenson homestead. He looked for employment accepting whatever job was available.

Mrs. Lena Parker lived about two and a half miles from his parents. She and her husband Samuel Parker took a homestead in 1902 on SW -12-48-16-4 and came to prove up this land with little more than their two hands, but in 1907 Sam passed away. Lena strug-



Alice, Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Gunderson, Arthur. Front Row: Selmer and Henry.

gled through some very trying years. With no fences to keep her cows, there were times she'd find them miles away or standing in sloughs. Fighting mosquitoes, bush and strange cattle, she managed to get them home. Most of the time her small daughter Alice would be at the house alone sleeping, with only the company of her cat. Once a smudge had caught fire and followed a trail of hay that led to the barn, and by the time she returned the barn was on fire. This was a great loss, but neighbors, Hans Sandvick, Bratruds, and Burkes who lived near by, gave her a hand with constructing another barn.

In 1910 Gunder Gunderson and his son did some work for her. Finding her very attractive, he called on her when there wasn't a job for him. So in 1911 Gunder Gunderson and Lena (Smorlie) Parker were married at a double wedding, along with Lena's brother Ole Smorlie and Gunder's sister, Bertha Gunderson. They continued to live in Lena's log house until 1913. When they sold a carload of hogs for \$900.00, this would buy enough lumber for a larger, new house. It was completed enough in 1914 to move in, by this time their first daughter Selma was a year old.

Gunder used to butcher steers and hogs and cut them into different cuts, then drive around to the neighbors and sell it by the pound. They were thankful for the fresh meat delivered. There were times when the farmer didn't have the money to pay for the meat so it was charged. Sometimes Gunder had to take grain in payment as cash was hard to come by. In 1916 their son Henry was born, so the family numbered two boys and two girls.

In 1919 Gunder and Lena rented the Keystone Ranch in the North Bawlf area, and Anton and Mary Evenson moved into the Gunderson home.

It was there they went through the hard winter of 1919-20 and it was here their youngest daughter Evelyn was born.

In 1922 they moved back to their farm in the Earling district.

Gunder broke land, did carpenter work and had a threshing rig, which would take him as far south as Daysland.

He passed away at the age of 59 years in 1931, leaving Lena a widow again. The 30's were hard years for Lena, the hardships were weathered by her faith in God. She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church. Her father Auslage Smorlie came to live with her in 1931. She needed his help, and he, being alone, needed her.

There was a model T Ford in the shed, but there was no money to run it, so it was by team in winter and walking wasn't crowded in summer. Lena worked hard raising her three children. She also raised cattle, pigs and chickens. I can remember when I. Lillo from Ryley bought ten big sucking calves for \$100.00.

Bill Winsness was a cattle trucker and a cream hauler. Later Martin Meadahl hauled the cream and eggs. He also took grocery orders to Black's and T. A. Liden's in Holden, and delivered the groceries and the cans in the evening. This was a service that was appreciated and will always be remembered by those who survive.

In 1924 Alice married Chauncey Larson. They lived at Daysland and had three sons Raymond, Clarence and Glen.

Selma married Alvin Bratrud in 1935. (see Alvin Bratrud history)

In 1940 Henry married Ludvig Hovland's daughter Ida. After they were married they lived in grandpa Gunderson's house, which was the estate of the late Angrin Gunderson. Later it was sold to Art Cappis and then to Cecil Stensrud.

Henry and Ida bought the old Reum place and moved there to raise a family of three children, Garry, Alward and Hazel. In 1959 they bought a farm in the Valhalla Center district north of Grande Prairie. Here Garry married and had three children. But his life was short, a tragedy occurred and Garry, his son and his daughter lost their lives in a boating accident.

Gunder Gunderson has one grandson and four great grandsons to carry on the Gunderson name.

Evelyn married George Mosby in 1947 and lived on the Gunderson farm.

Lena operated a small country store south of Ryley from 1949 to 1954 when it was sold to Mr. Paulson.

She then moved in with George and Evelyn and lived with them until 1958 when she went to make her home with her daughter Selma.

She entered the Bethany Nursing home in Camrose where she passed away at the age of 82 in 1966.

It was in 1966, George and Evelyn Mosby bought

the Gunderson farm. The house has been lived in since 1914, with many renovations. The Mosbys had one daughter Linda, who married Dale Lockhead in 1971. Due to poor health, George retired from farming in 1978 and they now live in Beaverlodge, Alberta.

Gunderson, Henry

I, Henry Gunderson, am the only son of Lena and Gunder Gunderson, pioneer settlers of the southwest Holden area (Palmer district). The SW¼-12-48-17 was homesteaded by my mother in the year 1902.

Our folks lived in the log house for about 4 years. It was there my sister Selma was born. Then dad built a new house. I was the first to be born there in 1915. This house is still being lived in by the George Niels. Father was not satisfied to farm so little land, so he rented the Keystone Ranch. It was situated in the north Bawlf district. We moved there in 1919. That was the hard winter for everyone. There was a shortage of hay, and it was brought in by railroad, some costing \$200.00 a ton.



Henry and Ida Gunderson.

I started school while we lived at the Ranch, attending the Likeness School (now in the Camrose Museum). Also, our youngest sister, Evelyn, was born during the years we were there. In 1922, we returned to the farm in the Palmer area. Selma and I then attended Palmer School. Mother boarded the teacher. We walked or drove across Tom Bratrud's fields to get to school. The highlight of the school year, I think, was the Christmas concerts. With a decorated tree, a program for parents and friends and at the end Santa Claus and a bag of candy, apples and oranges. It was always fun to hear concerts at neighboring schools, like Talbot, Gladstone and Salt Lake. Christmas then was really enjoyed by the kids. I can remember my last year at school with Harry Johnson, Gordon and Herrington Mohler — all of us bigger than the teacher.

In 1931 father passed away leaving mother with me and two sisters, Selma and Evelyn. I was young but learned to help with the farming, caring for 4 to 8 horses. All field work was done by horse power. We did have a 15-30 McCormick tractor but couldn't afford to run it. I remember driving teams building roads in the district. The wages we earned were paid by deducting it from the land taxes. Each farmer got a turn at putting on a team and man for fresno work on the road. I always have been fond of horses. I knew one day as I was older I would own horses of my own.

I helped break horses for Albert Oppen and others, did a bit of amateur bronco riding with the Holden and Tkaczyk boys. When I was young I always drove a high spirited team on my cutter or sleigh in winter. Sometimes roads were only open to horses. Our faithful mail man, Mr. Taylor delivered our mail for years by team.

Later I got my dad's 1925 Model T running for longer trips. Skunk gas was only 25¢ a gallon, but extra money for gas had to be earned by trapping weasels and muskrats and some coyotes too.

I spent a short while in B.C. with relatives but in 1935, returned home to farm for my mother.

In 1940, I married Ida Hovland, only daughter of Ludvig Hovland of Ryley. We started married life in Grandpa Ungrim Gunderson's house, about 2½ miles from home. In 1941 our son, Garry, was born in the same house that I was born in. The doctor attending was Dr. Ebba Sorenson. Shortly, we bought a farm in the Salt Lake area. Ida and I had been brought up in the Zion Lutheran Church and we still belonged and attended. We also brought our children up in this same country church. Another son, Alward, was born in 1945. Then in 1948, a daughter Hazel joined our family.

In 1959, I bought a farm in the Valhalla Center area, not far from Grande Prairie. After we had an



Garry, Hazel and Alward Gunderson.

auction sale, we loaded our big truck with all our belongings, and started out for our new home. After a long day we were nearing our destination. The hill and curve before we got to the Big Smoky was ahead, when the spring hanger broke on the truck I was driving. It rolled over several times, unloading all our possessions to a pile of rubble. The organ was in splinters. We salvaged what we could but were thankful that our son, Alward and our dog Buster who had been riding in the cab with me were not hurt. I was less fortunate. I was taken to the Grande Prairie hospital with broken ribs and a pierced lung. My wife was driving her dad's car and had come behind. My oldest son driving his car was ahead.

Our new neighbors in Valhalla gave us a welcome and a shower of gifts to help replace our lost household. The neighbors are of mostly Norwegian descent. Our family grew up and married here. Our oldest son, Garry, married Shirley Velve in 1963. They had 3 children, Marilyn, Lester and Darrel. In 1972 a boating accident claimed the life of son Garry and his two children Marilyn, 8 years, and Lester, 6 years, at Snipe Lake in northern Alberta. He was in business for himself in construction. Alward is also a carpenter and in the drywall business and farming on the side near Wandering River. He has 3 sons — Arlen, Sheldon and Elery. Hazel is married and lives in Grande Prairie. They have 2 children Tab and Daylene. She is employed at the Royal Bank in Grande Prairie.

Ida and I are semi retired. I've rented out my farm, but still do a bit of carpentry and drywalling now and then. We had a thrill in 1979 when Ida and I

travelled to Norway, home of our parents and grandparents. In 1981 we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with family and friends. We are always in contact with the old home and make frequent trips back visiting relatives and friends of south Holden.

Gunderson, Joe by Selma Bratrud

Joe came to Canada from the U.S. in 1910 with his parents, Angrim and Anna Gunderson. They bought the Anton Evenson homestead. They lived in a log house until they had a new house built. In 1916 Joe married Anna Smorlie. His folks bought a house in Ryley and they moved there to live while Joe and Anna farmed the land. He bought Ben Evenson's homestead, and in 1926 he built a new house, barn, chicken house and a garage on this place. Evan Olson of Holden was the carpenter. Joe farmed three quarters until the Angrim Gunderson land was sold to Conrad Vikstrom. Joe and Anna worked hard milking cows, raising chickens and farming with horses until he bought a small tractor; Joe had good horses and a good car. I remember how Joe could shovel grain. He usually hauled the grain home from the threshing machine and shoveled the grain into a granary. As time went by there were granaries built and moved out to the fields where the threshing machine was. Joe rented his farm out to Clarence Hellekson when his health failed. Anna passed away in January 1963 from a stroke in Tofield hospital where Joe was a patient at the time. Joe was moved to Bethany Home Camrose where he passed away in October 1963. Joe and Anna were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church.



(1955) Joe and Anna Gunderson. Pictures on the wall are Mrs. Gunderson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Auslage Smorlie.

Hagerud, Ragnhild

by niece, Grace (Hansen) Eriksson

Aunt Ragnhild, daughter of Per and Christina Bjornstad, was born in Norway. As a young child she sustained a hip injury which left her lame. She was delicate and not supposed to live long. However, she has outlived her whole family. She is now 92 years old and living in Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose. She certainly turned out to be anything but delicate! Not many could have done the work she did in her lifetime. She says she has no aches; never complains.



Mrs. Hagerud.

After W.W. I she married Gerhard Hagerud and lived for 10 years on a homestead near Smith. She came home to be with her parents, the Bjornstads. After their deaths a year later, she took over their home.

Now she had to set about making a living. She wound up selling milk to the whole town of Holden. What a job, rain or shine or snowstorm the milk had to go up town. She had several different vehicles for the job. First, a hand pulled sleigh and a little wagon; then a cart set on bicycle wheels, a real help. The latter was made by Hans Brekstad. I think the final was a horse drawn wagon. Finally it became law to pasteurize milk. Rather than go to all that expense, she quit the business.



Mrs. Hagerud's dog-drawn milk wagon with Lawrence Kachman, Lloyd Kachman and Mrs. Hagerud.

Quite a few young people worked for their board and room for her, to be able to attend high school.

She was active in the Ladies' Aid of the Lutheran Church, always doing her share. She was an outgoing person and she had many friends. It seems she was never idle as she sewed for herself and others, knit and did fancy work, canned and cooked. Until the last few years she did not have the convenience of gas or electricity.

Her home was always home to Avis and me. I truly feel grateful to her. I'll always remember her as one of the strongest persons I know.

Halabut, Harry and Annie

Harry Halabut arrived in Canada in 1929 from Malniw, Ukraine leaving his wife Annie and four children Katherine, Annie, John and Fred behind. He worked in the Mundare district until he could provide a home for his family. Four years later his family joined him in Canada and they settled south of Mundare where he continued working for the farmers in the surrounding district. In 1938 they moved eight miles north of Holden and started farming on rented land. They farmed there for two years until they bought land five miles north of Holden and started farming on their own.

In the year of 1935, Katherine, their oldest daughter married Andrew Komarnisky of Holden. They have three sons Ernie, Eddie and David. Ernie married Rosalind Taminsky of Warwick in 1960 and are farming north of Holden. They have three chil-



Harry and Annie Halabut and granddaughter, Sharon.

dren, Lorne, Shelley and Evelyn. Their second eldest, Eddie married Henrietta Hayduk of Vegreville in 1961. They are living in Edmonton with two sons Craig and Christopher. Their youngest son, David, married Rosemarie Puk of Vegreville in 1975. They are also living in Edmonton with two daughters Shannon and Andrea.

Annie married Peter Osadchuk in 1941. (see Osadacuk history)

In 1951, John married Susan Zyla of Mundare. They farmed with John's parents and are still farming the land owned by his father. They have four daughters Sharon, Pat, Elaine and Audrey. Sharon married David Zuk of Vegreville in 1974. They are living in Edmonton with two children, Rhonda and Nathan. Their other three daughters Pat, Elaine and Audrey are employed in Edmonton.

Fred married Lily Korpan of Vegreville in 1950. They are farming five miles north of Holden. They have three children Darlene, Gary and Dwayne. Darlene married Kevin Stambaugh of Holden in 1974 and are residing in Holden. They have a son Ryan and twins Kristin and Travis. Gary is employed in Edmonton and Dwayne is at home.

Harry passed away in 1959 at the age of 64 and Annie resided at the farm until her sudden passing in 1980, at the age of 86.

Charles Ham and Family by Margaret and Arthur

C. A. Ham of Bruce wrote his memories of the early days from which we gathered material for this history. He came from Quebec and homesteaded the S.W.¼ Sec. 34-Twp. 48-Rge. 15 W 4th in 1905, about three and one-half miles west of what was then called Hurry. Like many settlers he worked on the



Mr. Ham and homestead shack.

railroad gangs to get a winter's stake. The lumber for the first shack was hauled from Camrose. Life was lonely for the (mostly) bachelor homesteaders but people helped one another, and created their own fun.

In 1905 Dad said there were many buffalo trails clearly visible, also wallows and a buffalo skeleton every few acres. Prairie fires making a noise like a heavy train, travelling forty or fifty miles an hour, struck terror to the homesteaders heart.



The Hams about 1926.

"When I had finished fighting my first prairie fire", he said, "my throat was so dry I couldn't speak."

The winter of '05-'06 was warm with little snow. The next one was disaster: eighteen inches of snow in November — months of 40-50 below zero weather — blizzards — snowstorms in May and June — snowblindness — endless hardships.

The scarcity of women made the social life different, to say the least. There might be three times as many men as women at a dance. What fun, ladies!

Addie Patterson came from Quebec in 1907. She taught in Longridge school, and also in Jubilee School north of Bruce, travelling by horse and bug-

gy. She and Charles were married in 1908. Margaret and Arthur, their children, both went to West Bruce School. In fact Margaret started school the day this school opened. Thirteen years later she came back as the teacher.

C. A. Ham was the secretary of this school board for many, many years and also on the Bruce Presbyterian Church board from its beginning. Mrs. Ham was secretary of Church women's groups and also of the W.I.



"Ham Stead" and Uncle Elwin.

Charles Ham also chose the site of the Bruce Cemetery. Arthur worked the family farm for several years and was secretary of the local Rural Electrification Association for ten years. He still has the homestead quarter and also kept the 1921 Model T Ford, which is in demand now for parades, etc. He married Dorothy Hauer of Bruderheim and they have three children: Charles, Gerald and Arlene. Now Hams live in Vegreville.

Margaret married Melville Graham of Strome (deceased) and now lives in Daysland, Alberta. Their daughter Carol lives in Peace River, Alberta.

Hammer, Rollaf Olsen

Rollaf Olsen Hammer emigrated from Little Hammer, Norway, to the Dakotas in 1880. In 1902 he immigrated to Alberta, Canada, and filed on a homestead where the C.N.R. station presently stands in Camrose.

Not being satisfied with this location because of low land covered with water, he went in search of better farm land. He met Ludvik Roaen and filed on the S.W. ¼ of 6-50-14-W4, which was directly south of Ludvik Roaen's homestead. After getting clear titles to these two homesteads, they took out claims directly west of each homestead; Mr. Hammer on S.E. ¼-6-50-15-W4 and Mr. Roaen on N.E. ¼-6-50-15-W4. Mr. Hammer then began hauling logs from Birch Lake, forty two miles east, to build a home which is still standing.



Ludvik Raaen, Mr. Hammer, Bob, Mrs. Hammer, Olga and Ruth Hammer.

In March, 1911, Ann Maria Blom left Norway arriving in Viking in April. She and Rollaf Hammer were married in 1912. To this union three children were born: Ruth, Olga (Mrs. Art Skalin), and Bob. The daughters live in Camrose and the son at Ryley.

Bob married Edna Jacobson. They have four children, Eldon of Camrose, Dwayne of Edmonton, Darlene (Mrs. Bryce Albrecht) of Red Deer, and Elaine (Mrs. Ron Kallal) lives in Tofield.

Handley (Grosland), Evelyn

I was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arne Grosland at the family farm. I rode my horse Dick to Holmdene School, along with the other local kids. I always figured that Dick could out race them all. Believe me, don't put purple grapes in with your lunch when it is tied on the back of your saddle! My family always laughed when Dick was hitched up to the cutter in winter. He took me to school and back with little driving, I was so bundled up. Mr. McGee was my teacher until the spring of 1933, when he took sick. Had Mr. Dinwoodie the last few months.

Off to Holden for grade nine — then I boarded with Mrs. Smorlie and Ruth. Our Lutheran young peoples' group was quite active at that time. It was a very sad year for all of us (especially Mamma) as my sister Olive and Papa passed away in the fall of 1933.

In the fall of 1934 I went to Edson to stay with Aunt Helen and Uncle Aquilla Maxwell and their family while I took grades ten and eleven. I often brought some of my friends home to the farm in the holidays. They enjoyed this as my family always made them feel welcome. I went to school in Holden for my grade twelve and stayed with Hazel (my sister) and Clint Armstrong; also with Lyle (my

brother) and Dorothea. I rode horseback and often think of what I must have looked like in my chaps and mackinaw with my head wrapped in a scarf. Ragnhild Hagerud's house was always a good place to stay if the weather got too bad. She always made me welcome, horse and all.

I worked for Mrs. Hayes in the telephone office for about a year, then I worked in the creamery as bookkeeper while Percy Owens was the manager. In the spring of 1944 I went to work in Switzer's Drug Store until 1947. I married Sid Handley that year in the Holden Lutheran Church.

We have two children: Arne, born on Grandad Grosland's birthday in 1949. Arne and Sumi with their two children Gen and Nissa live in Medicine Hat where Arne teaches. Kristine born in 1952 is married to Jack McLennan. They live on a ranch just outside of Mannville where Kristine teaches. Her superintendent is Ralph Gorrie.

Sid and I have lived in Edson, Medicine Hat and are now in Edmonton. Sid is with the Provincial Government.

I assure you, my memories of Holden are very special.

Hanson, Henry Thomas

Henry Hanson attended school at Vermillion Val-



Henry Hanson and dog.

ley, and was janitor there for quite awhile, at \$1.00 a month. After he quit school he worked with Mat Hanson and Oscar Burnstad. He married Frances Gorrie in 1916 and worked on farms and at odd jobs. They moved to Grand Prairie but the Holden area was home to them so they returned and farmed south of the village for many years. Henry was a lover of animals, especially horses and dogs. He was a barber for many of his neighbours and was very particular.

They moved to Holden in 1939. Besides having the house and lot, he purchased property from Nils Nelson so he could have his favourite team of horses, a cow and a few chickens. He put his horses to good use hauling garbage for the village and plowing and harrowing gardens. This was hard work as he loaded and unloaded garbage with a shovel and fork, and he loaded the plow and harrows between each job. Henry passed away in 1971.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Donahue, Frances and Henry Hanson.

Frances always enjoyed crocheting, knitting etc. but her main hobby was making ornaments and wall plaques as well as plastic flowers and plants. She sold many of her ornaments, but gave away many more. She still lives in the same house.

Hanson, Mathias

by Grace Eriksson

Mathias Hanson was born in Norway. His father and uncles were all hotel proprietors. His mother died soon after he was born. He had one brother, Carl, who lived near Round Hill and Surrey, B.C. Mathias and Hedvig Bjornstad were married in South Dakota. Avis was born there. Grace was born after they came to Big Valley, Alberta.

In 1918 they settled on the Grosland place, as it was called, north of Holden. I remember a few incidents which occurred when we lived there, especially the first Christmas. Mother told us of an old man who was going to come down the chimney and bring presents for Avis and me. We were kind of scared, having never heard of Santa Claus before.



Grace, Hedvig, Mathias, and Avis Hansen.

After a while she came with a doll for each of us. We sat on our Papa's knee and named them. Once when our parents were choring, we burned the switch which mother had for keeping us in line. Our Papa Matt, as he was called, laughed, but Mother became angry. There were a flock of yellow canaries about, so Avis and I set out with a salt shaker, to put salt on their tails, as we were told we would thus be able to catch them. Papa was always good to us girls. Henry Hanson told me that my father could run like the wind. He passed away in 1918.

After our father's death, Avis and I lived with Grandma and Grandpa Bjornstad and started school in Holden. When Mother married Anton Saboe, I went to live with them and Avis remained with our grandparents.

Avis — In 1928 I had completed grade eleven. The next year I worked for a few months for a baker in Holden. In 1929 I went to Normal School in Edmonton and then taught at Meldal, Iron Creek and Howard Schools.

In 1938 Bob McKee and I were married and I went to live on his farm at Genesee. In 1940 our oldest son Hugh was born, in 1943 Dennis was born, and Leslie in 1944. In 1951 Bob had a serious accident and our crop was hailed out 100%, so I went



Avis and Bob McKee.

back teaching for a year. The year stretched into sixteen, after which I quit.

Leslie spent three years in the navy, and is married to Sharon Gardner. He has a son Bradley and two step-children, Trina and Grant. They reside in B.C. Dennis married Carol Schmidt. They have a daughter, Pamela and a son Daniel. Hugh is married to Anne Connolly and they have three boys, Kevin, Keith and Bradley.

Bob and I sold the farm in 1973 and moved to Leduc in 1974. Here we live a quiet retired life with many friends to visit.

Grace — After grade four, I went to live with Mother and Dad Saboe at Bruce. We rode shetland ponies to school. We had many funny things happen, such as landing in the water when the pony stopped for a drink. I loved riding, and was in my glory when I graduated to a big horse. Dad Saboe was a good horseman and taught me all I know about riding.

I recall an incident that happened when Avis and I were about five and six, when we were involved with a bunch of older kids in a garden raid. We had all just got into the garden at the telephone office when out came the Sorgen girls, who ran the telephone office. They told us they were going to call the police. Avis and I went crying to Mrs. Lemm's, where Mother was visiting. Finally an older girl who was involved came and told Mother what happened, and apologized for involving us.

From grades eight to eleven, I attended several schools and then became a "dropout". After working for the Gibson's, the Raymond Stewart's, and in the drug store, I enrolled at the Lutheran Bible School at Camrose. I then attended high school at Dickson, Alberta. Finally I found my niche working in the hospital at Innisfail.

In 1942 Herbert Eriksson of Edmonton and I were



Herbert and Grace Eriksson, 40th Wedding Anniversary in 1982.

married in the Holden Lutheran Church. To us were born five girls, Lynne, Lois, Eunice, Darlene and Avis. It was a busy life and I practically always had boarders. While Herbert attended the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon, I worked as cook and as a practical nurse. After his ordination he served at Inglis, Manitoba, Wainwright, Czar, Hughenden and New Sarepta parishes. When he retired in 1978, we bought Aunt Ragnhild's house in Edmonton and moved there.

In 1982 we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with old and new friends, near and distant relatives. Four of our daughters with their husbands, five grandchildren and one great grandchild were present. Due to the kind generosity of these people we are off to Hawaii in 1983.

Harasymchuk, Steve, Nancy and family

Steve Harasymchuk came from the Ukraine to Canada in 1927. Nancy (Faryna) Harasymchuk arrived in 1930. They settled in the Haight area. In the spring of 1938 they moved with their two sons William J. (Bill) and Walter south of Holden to the former Andrew Michalayko farm where they farmed until 1973. That year Steve and Nancy retired to the town of Holden. The boys attended Scona School, two miles from their home. Steve died in 1975 and is



Bill, Steve, Nancy and Walter Harasymchuk.

buried at St. Mary's South Holden Church Cemetery. Nancy still resides in Holden.

Walter runs the farm with his wife Janet and their two children, Roxanne and Michael. Both children attend Holden School.

William J. (Bill) Harasymchuk is with McCalder Construction in Edmonton where he lives with his wife Sylvia and their three children, Billy, Steve and Cathy. He also farms south of Holden near his home place.



Back Row: Walter and Roxanne, Janet and Michael Harasymchuk.

Hardy, Earl and Mary

by Earl

My parents, Inez and Vernon Hardy, raised a family of seven children in the village of Viking. I was the oldest of these children and attended the school in Viking for all of the grades one to twelve.

Mary's mother Laura and her father Archie farmed eleven miles north east of that village. Archie Craig was the secretary of Lakeview municipality for many years. Mary attended Poplar Hill and Maple Lodge rural schools until she took her high school in Viking. It was there that I took notice of a "certain farm girl", and ten years later, in 1938, we were married.



Mary and Inez Hardy.

After teaching four years in Lornedale rural school, 1934 to 1938, and now just married, we set up our first home in Kinsella where I was the principal of a two-room high school. From there in 1942, we moved to Holden where I was employed as an Industrial Arts teacher by the Holden School Division. In this capacity I served Viking, Bruce, Holden, Ryley and Tofield.

When we came to Holden we had Inez, a young lady two years old. In December of that year Douglas arrived to live with us. Holden seemed to be a fine community in which to raise a family, and in 1945, Sharon was born.

Inez, now Mrs. Howard Reil, lives on a farm south of Ryley and is presently employed as a teacher's aide in the Holden Elementary school. Howard is employed as a grader operator by the County of Beaver. They have four children. Scott is attending SAIT in Calgary. Kerry, now Mrs. Philip Bednarski, lives in Sherwood Park. Colin and Leanne are still at

home. Our son Douglas is a draftsman for the city of Edmonton. He and his wife Trish live on an acreage about eight miles northwest of Tofield. They have two children, Kimberly in grade three and Jason in kindergarten. Sharon, Mrs. Ralph Mason lives in Bowness, Calgary, where Ralph is employed as a mechanic at Shaw G.M.C. trucks. They have four children, Darren attending SAIT, Darcy is an apprenticing mechanic and Derrick and Shannon are still at home finishing their school grades.



Inez, Doug, Sharon ready for school.

Vacant houses in Holden were hard to find. Finally, we were able to rent the front half of the Norman Armstrong residence, now the Bertha Chetney home, across from the telephone office at that time. We immediately started to plan a home of our own, but this did not become a reality until three years later. Norman sold his home to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Philips and we moved into Lew Ritland's big house across the street from the United Church. I continued to work on my house in every spare moment. Finally, in 1945, on Halloween night, we moved into our house through a blinding snowstorm.

What a house, it was home and it was ours. There were no steps either front or back, no covering on the inside walls, and only the slivery sub-flooring to walk on. To make things more interesting, there were no railings around the open stairway. We had three children and with no hot or running water, life was really exciting at times.



Earl and Mary Hardy dressed up to attend state dinner for Princess Elizabeth, now Queen.

Our dream home was to be surrounded by trees of all kinds and a lawn where the kids could play. We had a good start on it by now. Finally came the stucco work. On a hot summer day Tom Philips and I began plastering on the stucco and by mid afternoon we had the west wall finished, an area of twenty six feet by ten feet. Then it happened. Hail, wind and rain descended on our village. All of the stucco came off, the roof material, ripped to shreds, sailed off into the trees east of us and every window on the west side of the house was broken. To add insult to injury, we had no insurance yet and our three children were sick in bed with the measles. Fortunately one room in the house was fairly dry. I never knew that Mary could move bags of cement so fast until that day. The next day was bright and sunny and we started our task anew.

One day, while I was tarring the inside of the cistern, I was overcome by fumes from the tar. Mary was keeping an eye on me and when I did not answer her call she ran for help. Carpenters working on Arnold Berg's house down the street responded to her call and pulled me out. When I awakened I was flat on my back on the lawn and Doctor Larry Mason was sticking needles into me. Whatever I absorbed in that episode made me stagger for three days. I had learned an important lesson the hard way.

To find out where my property lines were, Ted Brushett and I, with the aid of a poplar stick and a

tape measure and a little good luck, marked out what we figured were the boundaries of my lot. We came pretty close, for when the official survey was made, they put their stakes mighty close to ours. Thanks Ted.

While all of this furor was going on, we tried to be active in the community. In 1948 I entered provincial politics as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Bruce. I continued as a member until 1962 when I resigned. I now put more time into teaching. I spent four years in grade nine along with Oleh Shykora, and finally I was appointed Vice-Principal in Holden until I retired from teacher in 1974. I had taught for forty years in what is now the County of Beaver and I enjoyed every bit of it. Mary and I attend the United Church and have been active in it since we came to Holden. I am still an active member in both the Elks and the Masonic Lodges. I enjoy an amateur radio short wave station, VE6EM, which I have operated since 1937. Mary has participated in the Girl Guides, the Cubs and is a member of the Royal Purple Lodge. We have many hobbies which we enjoy together, such as pottery, painting, gardening and trailering, as soon as the snow is gone, and finally fishing.

Fishing proved to be embarrassing to me. I had set out to show Hank Tiedemann how to cook fish in a hole in the ground. I prepared fresh fish by salt and peppering them, then treated them with a good layer of butter and finally I wrapped them in tin foil. A hole about a foot square and two feet deep was dug about fifty feet back from the lake in a good sandy spot that was easy to dig. Now the hole was filled with coals from a wood fire and the fish was carefully placed on the coals. A lid of wood and sand was now put over the hole to seal the "oven". This was left to cook over night and a special treat was to be ours at breakfast time. I opened the pit — there it was, the fish was just as raw as when I had put it in the hole. I had forgotten to note that we were near the lake and the water seeped in with the result, no fire. Hank never forgot that episode and let me know about it at every opportunity.

We still think that Holden and our home are very special to us. Our little white poodle Chi-Chi is a treasure and great company in our retirement.

Time marches on. We now have two great granddaughters to love, Janine and Amanda Bednarski. Oh yes, we are still working on our home. Fishing time — see you later.

Hejnar, Frank

Frank Hejnar was born in 1900 in the province of Galicia, which was part of the Austrian Empire. He spent his younger years on the farm with his family

until he served in the Austrian Army in 1917. On the break down of Austria, he went home and worked in an oil refinery near Krasno which is now Poland. In 1920 he was called to serve in the Polish army and after two attempts to run away he was forced to join, and was sent to the war front to fight the Russian Bolsheviks. He was captured and taken prisoner at Kiev, but was later returned to the Polish army. He was released in 1922 and immigrated to Canada in 1926. He remembers picking roots and breaking land for \$25.00 a month, and putting in 1300 acres of crop with horses. The farmer lost his crop through drought, so he received room and board for his efforts. He had come from Halifax by train to find employment at that Saskatchewan farm. He also worked in Manitoba and later found employment at Cranbrook, B.C. He became acquainted with the Stafinski brothers of Manville, Alberta. They were returning there and Frank went with them where he found employment with a local farmer in 1931. That same year he brought his younger brother, Ludwig to Canada, and he also purchased his first quarter of land which was located in the Manville area.



The Frank Hejnar family.

In 1932 Frank's brother Ludwig found work with a threshing outfit in the Haight district where the land was level and easier to farm. He suggested to Frank that they move there. In 1935 Frank rented some land from John Kolodychuk and rented out his land at Manville. In 1939 he bought a quarter section north of Haight.

He now felt established but was tired of his own cooking and the neighbours felt that a bachelor of thirty nine years should be married. A neighbour, Anton Semchyshn introduced him to the Steve

Sharun family of Chipman, where he met Eva Sharun. They were married in 1939. Frank had to borrow money to buy a suit and the marriage license, since all his money was spent on the deposit for the farm.

Their first child, a daughter, Lora Genia was born in 1940. In August of 1942 they were blessed with twin sons, Henry and Marshall, however this pleasure was not to be, as Marshall passed away in July, 1943. Joseph was born in 1945. The family was growing, and the shack which was home was getting crowded and in poor condition, so a new house was in order. Construction began in 1947, however the purchase of another quarter of land suspended completion until 1950. There Allan was born in 1952.

Over the years Frank continued to make improvements to his farm and bought additional land in 1965 for which he paid \$13,000. He bought his first tractor in 1954 and his first car in 1956. In 1972 he sold his land at Manville, and purchased a house in Vegreville, which was to be their retirement home. In 1974 Frank and Eva went to Poland to visit his homeland and members of his family who still reside there.

Frank and Eva have been graced with good health and a happy retirement in their home in Vegreville.

Their daughter Lora married John Antoniuk of Chipman. They have three daughters, Kelly, Karen and Joyce. Henry married Rose-Anne Wayne of Ryley in 1964. They have one daughter, Bonnie. Allan married Joan Huley in 1974, and their children are Joanne and Evelyn. Joseph and Darlene Helsabeck were married in 1975. They have a daughter Penny, and reside on the family farm near Haight.

Hejnar, Ludwik

Ludwik Hejnar was born in Krosno, Poland. At the age of twenty four, with hopes of seeking a better life, he immigrated by freighter to Canada. Once landed in Canada, he felt the effects of the depression. The year was 1930.

He travelled to Saskatchewan to join his brother Frank who was employed there. He worked at various jobs during the depression, sometimes working for room and board, or a top wage of 25¢ an hour. He then decided to take up farming in the Vermilion area with his brother Frank. After a few years they decided to move to the Ryley district, with Frank settling at Haight and Ludwik renting the Chris Damsgaard farm and buying a ten acre farmyard at Poe. He rented various other land in the south Holden area before buying SE 4-16-49 from Pete Nahirniak.

During this time he met Mary Hlousek of Viking, who had emigrated from Poland in 1938 with her family. In 1944 they were married at Viking and



Ludwik Hejnar in 1927.



Ludwik, Mary, Stanley Hejnar and grandparents Emil and Anna Hlousek.

settled in the log house which was very cold and well ventilated. Ludwik and Mary had five children, Stanley, Helen, Olga, Emily and Brian. After a few years Bernt Chetney's adjoining land was purchased and the family moved to a better farmsite. After conquering hard times and back breaking work, the land was paid for and improved.

The family was grown and each sought their own way. Stanley married Susan Syvester of Breton and they reside in Edmonton. Helen married Andy Hrabec and they reside north of Ryley. Olga married Gerard Rolheiser and they live in Edmonton. Emily married Vernon Ronsko and they farm north of Daysland. Brian farms at home and resides with Mary and Ludwik.



Helen and Stanley Hejnar.

Hellekson, Allan Family by Lorraine Hellekson

Allan, oldest son of Clarence and Violet Hellekson, was born in 1941 at the home of his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bratrud. He took all his schooling at Palmer School, riding his horse called "Bell". He spent his extra time helping his dad with the farming. The winter of 1959 he worked in Edmonton at a gas station, but in the spring returned to farming.

In 1960 he married Lorraine Ronsberg from Bawlf. After graduating at Bawlf she attended Canadian Bible Institute in Camrose and then worked at the 5¢ to \$1.00 store, before marrying Allan.



Back Row: Laird Burchill. Front Row: Marlene, Lorraine, Allan.

We made our first home on the Great Uncle Ole and Great Aunt Bertha Smorlie place, N.W.12-48-17-W4, which we rented from them. During our stay there our home was blessed with a baby girl, Marlene Fay in 1961.

In the fall of 1962 we purchased and moved to the Clarence Hellekson place, SW 18-48-16-W4 which had been homesteaded by Alex Hellekson, Allan's grandpa, about 1902. This would then be the third generation living on this place. In 1963 our home was blessed with a son, Donald Allan.

Many the good times we spent with the children while they were growing up. We enjoyed many camping and fishing trips or just going on a sight seeing holiday. We all enjoyed our favorite sport, curling. We curled as a family at the Gladstone Curling Rink. Marlene and Donald took all their schooling at Ryley, Marlene graduating in 1980 and Donald in 1981.

A big event in our family was Marlene's marriage to Laird Burchill in 1981. He had come from Edmonton to help at the Keith Bratrud farm. At present Marlene is a receptionist at Camrose Lutheran College and Laird is employed at Camrose U.F.A. Donald is staying at home and is renting a farm from his uncle.

We are members of the Zion Lutheran Church in the Palmer-Earling District and have always enjoyed the fellowship that we have had through its work, whether attending worship service, Sunday School or fun at Family Fellowship gatherings.

Hellekson, Alex

Alexander Hellekson came from Chamberlain, Brule County, South Dakota in 1902 at the age of 27 as far as the steel (Wetaskiwin), and the rest of the way by team.



Alex and Olena Hellekson, 1915.

He homesteaded south west of Holden (S.W. 18-48-16) and built a log house there. He was a cowboy at heart, and his favourite pastime was riding. The first concern of the people who came was to organize a church in the community for the welfare of both young and old. Alex was cemetery keeper and this job went to his son Clarence and his grandson Allan, has it today.

In 1915 he married Olena Gunderson and they had a son Clarence who was born in the old log house. They also had two other sons Earl and Edward who died in infancy.

In 1916 he bought C.P.R. land for \$16.00 an acre (S.E. 13-48-17) and (N.W. 7-48-16). He cleared land by hand broke it with eight horses and a wooden beam plow. He hauled grain to town for five cents a bushel with a team and sleigh. At last progress came, and in 1937 a new John Deere tractor was bought for \$950.00.

In 1938 Clarence married Violet Bratrud of Ryley and they lived on the N.W. 7-48-16 until 1941. Alex Hellekson's work was left to his son Clarence and his wife, as his health began to fail and he passed away in 1941, after being blessed by seeing his first grandson, Allan. Clarence and Violet then moved to the home place.



Clarence Hellekson family — 1981. Back Row: Donnie, Allan, Lorraine, Dave, Violet, Clarence, Bonnie and Earl. Front Row: Marlene, Neil, Colin, Vivian, Susan, Bonnie Jane, Brent and Brian.

After Alex's passing Olena Hellekson left the farm and moved to Holden and later to Edmonton where she married Mr. Hugh Conn. She passed away in Wetaskiwin.

Clarence and Violet had three children, Allan, Earl and Vivian. Work for both of them was hard and long, but a few conveniences such as 32 volt power, plus propane cook stoves, and running water were much appreciated. In 1943 they purchased a Massey #15 combine and harvested 600 acres that fall.

The family attended Zion Lutheran Church, and church was everything to them. It was their place of worship, fellowship and entertainment.

Allan, Earl and Vivian went to Palmer School until 1955 when Earl and Vivian were bussed to Ryley.

Allan (see Allan Hellekson story).

Clarence and Vi Hellekson, Earl and Vivian moved to Camrose, (Present address 6214-49th Ave.) leaving Allan to farm.

Clarence worked at the Trading Corral and got his mechanics license. Later he started selling machinery for Schnell & Barrie where he is still employed.

Earl. (See Earl Hellekson Story.)

Vivian graduated from Camrose Composite High School and worked at Lawrence's and Macdonald's Consolidated. She married Dave Christenson and they live in the Armena District. Dave and Vivian have three children, Neil, Colin and Susan.

Earl Hellekson and family

Earl Carman Hellekson is the second oldest son born to Clarence and Violet Hellekson in 1943 in his parents' home, on the original home place of his grandparents, Alex and Olena Hellekson.

Earl was raised in the area and went to Sunday School and church at the Zion Lutheran Church. He attended Palmer and Ryley Schools.



Earl Hellekson family at Brian's confirmation, 1980.

In 1962 Earl moved to Camrose with his parents and Vivian. While there Earl worked for Miller Electric Ltd.

Earl met his wife Bonnie in Camrose and they were married at the Evangelical Mission Covenant Church in Camrose.

Bonnie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Logan of Camrose attended schools in the town and worked for Lawrence's store until she married.

In the spring of 1966 they purchased land (N.W. 6-48-16 and S½ 7-48-16-W4) from Harry and Julia Johnson, better known as the Sam Johnson homestead.

In 1966 because of great love for the farm they left their city for the life of country living.

In 1971 Bonnie took the job of Secretary-Treasurer for the Holden Drainage District #1, and is still holding the position.

In 1972 they purchased an additional two quarters of land on the E½ of 6-48-16 W4 from Oscar and Doris Afseth.

Earl and Bonnie have been blessed with three children, Brian Earl, Bonnie Jane, and Brent Vernor. The children attend Sunday School and church at Zion Lutheran Church, and are getting their education at Ryley School.

Brian and Bonnie Jane are members of the Ryley 4H Beef Club. Their youngest son Brent is taking grade one. The children are interested in all farm activities.

Henderson, Dr. Leslie

by Mary Henderson

The Henderson family emigrated to Canada in 1947. We arrived at Holden in September. The doctor took up the post as medical officer for the district. After a year he decided to go back to university in Toronto where he took another degree, his D.P.H. (diploma in public health). While there he was offered another post with the Federal Government in Ottawa. In June he took up this post. He was educated at Glasgow University and graduated MB, CHB in 1926. While in Canada he worked for the St. John's Ambulance and was decorated by the Governor General for his services. He also was a member of the reserve army in Canada and finished as a Lieutenant Colonel.

During our stay in Holden we were very happy. Our daughter Morag, was only twelve years old when we went there. She has stayed in Canada ever since. She now lives in Vancouver.

My husband wanted to return to Scotland when he retired, and sadly he lived only four years of retirement when he passed away.

Henderson, Henry and Family

Henry and Brita Henderson came from Sweden in 1905. They settled on a homestead in Rich Valley sixty miles north west of Edmonton. To this union five children were born, namely Viola, Theodore, Erling, Betty and Alice.



Back Row: Henry and Mrs. Henderson. Front Row: Theodore, Erling, Alice, Betty and Viola.

In July 1919 they sold their homestead and moved to a farm five miles north east of Holden. It was later sold to Paul Michlich, and they moved to Edmonton. The children attended school in Holmdene. Henry Henderson passed away in 1945 at the age of 79. Brita passed away in 1952, at the age of 82.

Viola married Alan Silversides and lives in White Rock, B.C. Theodore married Winifred Hogstead and lived on a farm south of Viking. He passed away in the spring of 1981. Erling was married to Zella Sizer and had a hardware store in Taber. He passed away in 1970. Betty married Percy Owen and lives in Edmonton. Alice and Conrad Huseby are married and farm south of Holden.

Hogstead, Fred and Family by Winnie Henderson

Frederick Hogstead emigrated from Ineroya, Norway to South Dakota in 1903 where he was employed on a farm. In 1904 he took up a homestead in the Outlook district in Saskatchewan. Dad made visits back to Norway in 1908 and in 1912.

Our mother, the former Selma Hovde was born in Trondheim, Norway. She immigrated to Canada in 1912 and married Dad the same year in Regina. Their two eldest daughters were born in Saskatchewan.

In 1915 they moved to Alberta, and had their machinery and horses shipped. They took up farming



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hogstead in 1912.

on the N.E. 3-48-15, six miles southwest of Bruce. Their nine children, seven girls and two boys, all attended Fairview School. After selling their farm in 1946 they lived in Viking for several years. Dad passed away in 1960 at the age of 81, and Mother in 1969 at the age of 80.

The following are brief histories of the Hogstead children:

Mabel married George Inverarity of Wellwood, Manitoba in 1935. They farmed in that district and were active in 4-H work for many years. They sold their farm in 1969 and are now residing in Carberry, Manitoba. Their family consists of three daughters and one son. Gurene (Klein), a nurse, lives in St. Albert and has two sons and a daughter. Shirley (Alford), lives in Red Deer, where she teaches school. She has three children. John and his family are living in B.C. where he is employed as a plumber. Irene (Tully) lives near Winnipeg where her husband operates a dairy farm. They have four children.

Esther, born in Landis, Saskatchewan, married Oscar Wenstob in 1937. They are living on their farm in the Daysland-Strome area. They have two children. Jean lives in Edmonton. Norman and his wife Diane (Kelly) have one son. They live in the same yard as Oscar and Esther where Norman has taken over his dad's farming operation.

Winnie married Ted Henderson in 1940. They



Hogstead family: Jennie, Lilly, Freddie, Frances, Anne, Alfred, Winnie, Esther and Mabel.

lived on the farm near Holden before moving to Vancouver where Ted was employed. In 1946 they bought a farm in the Viking district. They had two sons. Larry, married to Linda Koyanagi, lives in Brooks where he is employed with Farm Credit. Harold married Connie Taylor and they have two sons. He is an assessor for the M.D. of Wainwright. Ted passed away in 1981 and Winnie still resides on the farm.

Alfred has spent most of his life in the Bruce and Viking districts. He worked in the Leduc and Calmar oil fields in the late forties and fifties. In 1954 he married Norma Swanson and they have five children, Sylvia, Lorne, Clifford, Sandra and Douglas. Sylvia married Norman Safranka and they have three children. Clifford is married to Alana Johnson. Alfred bought a farm southwest of Viking in 1960 and has farmed there since.

Anne lived in the Bruce-Viking district till 1970 when she moved to Edmonton. Her two daughters, Edna (Mrs. Mel Andres) and Marilyn (Mrs. Harvey Kruse) and their families live in Camrose. Anne also has five stepchildren, and thirteen grandchildren. After leaving the farm in 1966, she earned her living as a cook. For the past eight years she and her husband, Ted Ek have managed apartments.

Frances married Alfred Nordstrom in 1945. They live on a farm north of Viking. They have one son and a daughter. Richard, married to Georgina Smith, has four children. Darlene married Robert Pullen and has three children. Alfred passed away in 1969. Frances then married Ray Gronnestad in 1971. They lived in Edmonton until 1981 when they moved to Red Deer.

Freddie lives in Edmonton and is employed as a

pipe fitter. He was married to Violet Busenius in 1953. She passed away in 1975. They had four children. Glen is married and lives in Millet. Gary and Gail, who are both married, live in Edmonton. Greg, an apprentice plumber, lives at home.

Lily married Gerald James in 1957 in Yellowknife, N.W.T., where they are presently residing. They have two sons, Geoffrey, employed as a diamond driller, and Steven, still in school.

Jennie and Dan Ryan were married in 1950 and they reside in Edmonton. They have one son and three daughters. Patrick married Laurie Watson, Colleen married Lyle Wedman and they have one son, Karen is married to Stephan Calver, and Penny is an R.N. at the General Hospital.

Holden, George and Tilda by Anna (Holden) Pederson

My dad, George Holden, came from Centerville, South Dakota and settled in the Holden district in 1907. He bought a quarter section of land from Chris Olberg, which was a homestead, and he continued to improve it.



Mr. and Mrs. George Holden (nee Tilda Larson). Married 1912.

He raised horses and cattle, and in those days all the stock was branded. The Holden's brand was LL on left shoulder for horses and Θ H on left ribs for cattle. He was very interested in trapping and hunting, and was a very good marksman with a rifle.

In 1912 George married Tilda, daughter of John and Mathilda Larson. He built their house and also some sod buildings for the stock. He later built a cement granary.

It was during this time that George was foreman for road improvements in his area. They used bull slips and a team, and received \$4.00 a day working off their taxes. Some drew money and then worked it off as road work.

Tragedy struck the family in 1920, when at the age of thirty-eight, George succumbed to a heart attack. Tilda was left to raise six children alone. They were Bertha, Ted, Louie, Anna, Clara and Georgina.

Our aunt, Mary Emerson offered to take Louie, then four years old, and care for him. They lived in Winnifred, Montana. An old sea captain and his wife, Rasmussen and Olivia Larson of Irma, Alberta, who were friends of the family, insisted they care for me (Anna) then three years old. I made my home with them until I was twelve years of age and was treated like one of the family. I then returned to my mother's home as did Louie.

Wells dug with a spade in the early days failed to produce water, we therefore had the steady job of hauling water in barrels for the livestock and for use in the house. It was taken from a well situated about a mile and a half away. In later years a well was drilled, 306 feet deep, which produced water, but was very salty. We all helped as much as possible with the farm work. Bertha, Ted and Louie hauled hay from the Bruce district where they rented some hay land. Haying was done with horses, and pitched and stacked by hand. In the winter months it was hauled home for the stock.

The young people in the district often gathered at our place for a game of softball or rugby football. During 1935 and 1936 there was many a barn dance held in our log barn.

Except for the years Louie and I were away from home, we all attended Fairview school, a distance of four and a half miles away. Mom arranged with the Nohr family for us to ride with them. Later when we were old enough to handle the horse, we drove, picking up the Nohr children. At times when the horse was needed at home, we had to walk, sometimes breaking trail through the deep snow. Sergina Sizer, who lived along our way to school, would often invite us in for cocoa or hot soup on a cold day, while Charlie took care of the horse. Rocks heated in

March 30/91
 Bought from W Olson
 11. head of K & cattle Th 23.
 day of March
 4. Tow year Old Hef.
 2. 9 Months & calves
 1. yearling Hef
 2. " " & steer
 2. Cows.
 G. Holden
 Holden
 Alta

Bill of sale for cattle.

July 15, 1912
 G. Holden as owner 2.25
 Joseph Carlson & team \$3.00
 August Carlson & team "3.00
 Charles Sizer & single "1.00
 Austin Deoney & team \$2.00
 Dick Sizer & team \$2.00
 Elko, Lakosta & team \$2.00
 \$17.45

A page from a road foreman's work record.

the oven over night were used as foot warmers in the cutter.

My mother, along with Ted and Louie, farmed for many years. They sold the land and held their auction sale in November of 1948. Mother and Bertha then made their home in Edmonton. Tilda Holden passed away in 1967 at the age of 80 years. Bertha still resides in Edmonton, where she has a window cleaning business. Ted and Louie live in Bruce. Clara married George Armstrong and presently resides in Penticton, B.C. (their stories elsewhere in the book). Georgina made her home with Aunt Mary Emerson and married Benjamin Kruger of Livingston, Montana. They now make their home in Arizona. I (Anna) married Irvin Pederson in 1937 and we live in the Gladstone district, north of Bawlf. We have two children, Vernon and Verna. Vernon now farms the



The Irvin Pederson family. Back Row: Teresa, Janelle, Irvin, Anna, Donna, Peggy. Front Row: Merlin, Pat Gabourie, Verna, Cheryl, Vernon, Ronald.

land and also operates his own construction business. He and his wife Donna (Dewart) have three children, Cheryl, Teresa and Ronald. Verna and her husband, Patrick Gabourie farm near Ohaton. Their children are Peggy, Janelle and Merlin.

Holden, Louie

by Louie Holden

I was born in 1915, son of George and Tilda Holden. I attended Fairview School, starting when I was nine years old. I later worked along with the rest of the family on the farm. As a young man, I worked for Al Sanderson for about seven years, and in 1942 bought a section of land north-east of Bruce. After the family farm auction sale, I spent the winter in Montana and lived with my brother Ted for a short

time, after which I made my home on my farm near Bruce. As time passed, I acquired more land and raised a variety of livestock, which included cattle, horses, sheep, mules, goats and buffalo. At one point my buffalo herd consisted of fifty-one head. My goats were useful when my garden needed weeding.

I sold out in 1979 and bought eighty acres adjoining the hamlet of Bruce where I still reside. As a hobby, I raise llamas, camels, horses, goats and Scottish Highland sheep.



Louie's Llamas.



Louie's buffalo.

Holden, Ted

I, Ted was born in 1913, oldest son of George and Tilda Holden, of Holden, Alberta. I took my schooling at Fairview school, and then farmed the home place along with my brother Louie. I was breaking horses at the age of fifteen. When I was nineteen I started competing in rodeos, and my first ride was at the Bruce Stampede in 1932. I competed in Bruce Stampedes for sixteen years, as well as many other rodeos, including Calgary. Harry Tkaczyk and I entered the Roman Races at Bruce for ten years. In 1946 I was the champion in saddle bronc competition



Clara Armstrong and Louie Holden with Louie's camels.

at Taylor Flats, near Peace River. I retired from rodeo competition in 1949.

After we held our farm auction, I moved to Holden, where Albert Nordstrom and I batched for a couple of years. I bought three quarters of land in the



Ted Holden at the Calgary Stampede.

Bruce district. I also bought some horses which I used as rodeo bucking stock for several years.

Between 1967 and 1971 I rode in many gymkhanas held in several near by communities. I entered the "fifty and over" class and have twenty three trophies to show for it.

After selling my land in 1977, I moved to Bruce where I now make my home.



Ted and his hounds.

Holden Hutterian Brethren

Hutterites were the Austrian branch of the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century. They had the unique chance to develop their communal life in peaceful Moravia, due to a predominantly Slavic surrounding and lived in isolation from the rest of the world.

In 1874 many emigrated from Arabia to the U.S. where they settled in South Dakota as this prairie land was similar to their homeland. Several colonies moved to Canada in 1918.

Holden became home to 68 Hutterites in 1969 when five families bought land from several farmers southwest of town. The farm purchased from Lloyd Pooke was chosen as the residence and main site for erection of new buildings.

In 1972 the colonies, which consisted of more than 140 people, were split up so four more families moved here. Capable leaders of this co-operative group which is now 100, are Rev. John S. Hofer (Pres.), Peter M. Stahl (assistant minister), Paul K. Stahl (Sec.), David A. Stahl (field manager), David S. Stahl and Paul R. Hofer (elders).

Some land is rented from neighbors, so 5,600 acres comprise this mixed farming unit. Each family has the responsibility of a specific duty — one looks after the dairy, one takes care of the bees and hogs, one cares for the beef cattle etc. The gardens are planted, weeded, picked by the women and girls. A considerable amount of this produce is sold at the Farmers Market at Vegreville, Camrose, Tofield and Sherwood Park. Their speciality now is selling certified seed potatoes.

Each family has their own living quarters but the dining area is shared by all. Church services are held twice on Sunday and each evening before supper.

Although the young people learn English at school, they speak German at home. At age 15 they leave school, the boys are taught mechanics, welding and complete farming courses before they are allowed to operate machinery or ride one of the beautiful horses used when rounding up the beef cattle. Girls have to learn the art of good cooking, sewing and homemaking.

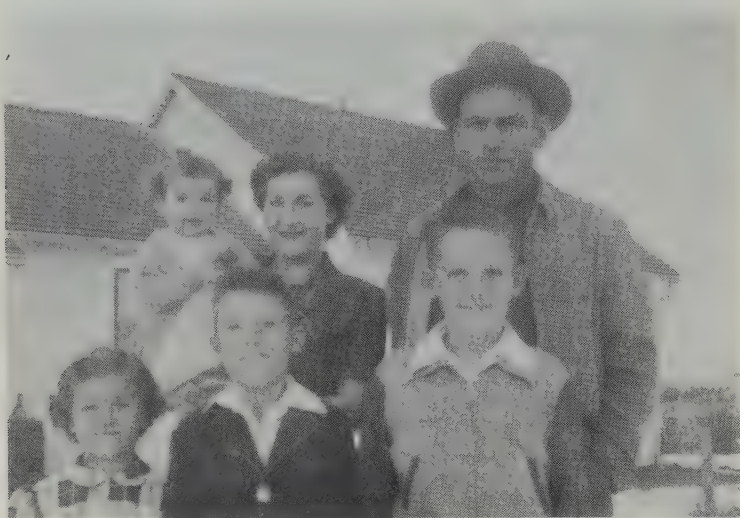
The school in the Hutterite Colony was started in 1969 with ten students and Mrs. Annie Tchir as teacher. She was followed by Mrs. M. Oslund, George Pon and Edna Hammer. Now twenty-five students attend, and as of 1983 Betty Babchuk is the teacher.

Hooper, Cecil by Gwen Hooper

Cecil, son of Joseph and Mary Hooper, was one of ten children who originally came from Viking. He started school at Torlea and then attended Glenlea and Iron Creek School.

After working different places, he went to work for a farmer named Bud Evans, learning the skills of water drilling, as well as farming. Mr. Evans had a family of one son and six daughters. One of these girls Gwen, he took a fancy to. He courted her for about three years and married her in 1942. Two days later, Cecil joined the army. He was stationed in Edmonton and Calgary and was discharged in 1944.

That same year he started working in the Holden Creamery, then owned by Burns and later by Northern Alberta Dairy Pool. He drove a truck for N.A.D.P. picking up cream from farmers in the area. Later he graded and tested cream and made butter.



Cecil and Gwen Hooper with Wendy. Front Row: Shirley, Grant and Jim.

While they lived in Holden, their first son James was born, followed by Grant in 1946 and Shirley in 1948. They lived in several places finally locating in the house presently owned by Harry Ronnie.

In 1954, Cecil was transferred to Radway to manage the creamery there. It was here that Wendy was born in 1955. Times were hard and wages weren't very good, so the family learned to do without many of the things they would have liked. Their son Tim was born in 1959, another mouth to feed, but there



Cecil Hooper and son Tim.

was enough love to stretch a little further and he was such a nice little boy, they decided to keep him too.

The family always looked forward to the annual holidays, which meant camping out in a tent and visiting many exciting places. The children attended school at Radway, and as they got older, Jim and Grant went out working, trying their hand at different jobs.

In 1966 Cecil was transferred back to Holden to manage the creamery. They moved into the house formerly occupied by the former manager Nels Hviid. They later purchased the house which is presently owned by their daughter Shirley and her husband Irvin Scott.

The younger children soon became involved in the many activities around Holden, such as Girl Guides, Cubs, Sea Cadets and were active in school sports. Tim, being a "Mr. Fix It" often had the back yard filled with friends' bikes and wagons. Wendy along with Linda Scherger looked after the new wading pool and play ground during the summer.

Jim was employed in Edmonton as a truck driver at the time of his passing in 1970, at the age of 26. Shirley was also employed in Edmonton, babysitting and at A&W, prior to her marriage to Irvin Scott in 1971 (see Irvin Scott history). Grant married Pat Marcincoski of Bruce in 1975, and they reside in Calgary where Grant works for a courier service. Wendy graduated at the Holden High School and was



Cecil Hooper at the creamery.

employed at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. In 1975 she married Randy Suchy, formerly of the north Holden district. They live in St. Albert where Randy works in Construction as a lather and drywaller. They have two children, Karie and Curtis. Tim worked at various jobs and now drives a truck for McGavins.

During the time that Cecil managed the creamery in Holden, he also managed the creameries in Viking and Daysland, with the help of Frank Stecyk and Gwen. After the Holden creamery closed in 1978,

Cecil worked at the Vegreville plant and also drove a tanker truck for N.A.D.P. He retired in March of 1982, after 38 years of service.

Cecil is a member of the Holden branch of the Canadian Legion and has held various offices.

The Hoopers now reside in a mobile home near the Holden School.

Hooper, Joseph

Joseph Hooper was born in Durham, Ontario, in 1880. Mary Kleban was born in Poland, in 1891. They were married about 1910 and came to Holden to try farming. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper raised ten children; five girls and five boys. The children attended Torlea, Iron Creek and Glenlea Schools.



Mary and Joe Hooper.

Grandpa Hooper passed away at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Edmonton in 1967 at the age of eighty seven years.

Grandma Hooper is ninety-one years old now, and is in the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. Though she can't get around very well, her mind is still quite active.

Hopkins, William and Freda

by Freda Hopkins

Freda Erma Holder was born at Bladworth, Sask., the tenth child of Isaac and Barbara Holder who had come to that area from Ontario in 1905 and had taken a homestead.

William David Hopkins was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1903 — the second child of Robert and Alice Hopkins who had gone there from Wales after the Boer War. They operated a butcher business which supplied meat to the labor camps at



Freda, Jackie and Bill Hopkins.

the diamond mines. In 1910 they immigrated to Canada and operated the same type of business supplying meat to the labor camps at Bassano, Alberta when the dam was under construction there. Freda Holder and William (Bill) Hopkins were married at North Battleford, Saskatchewan in 1931. They had four children, all born while they lived at Holden.

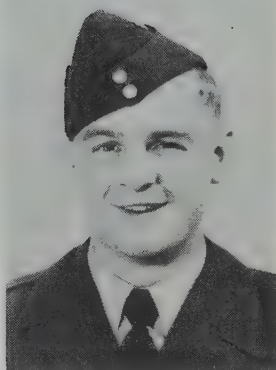


Donald Hopkins.

Robert Donald was born in 1932. He served in the R.C.A.F. from 1952 until 1978 and was Base administrator at C.F.B. Cold Lake when he retired. In 1954 he married a Nova Scotia girl who was an instrument technician in the R.C.A.F. They now live at St. Albert, Alberta and Don works for the Alberta Gov't as Director of Interior Designs of Gov't. owned buildings. They have three children. Their daughter, Captain Susan Hopkins is head pharmacist at C.F.B. Esquimalt and has been in the service for four years.

John William was born in 1933. He served in the R.C.A.F. from 1952 until 1956. He married a nurse at Haney, B.C. and they still live there, where he works for B.C. Hydro. They have three children.

John Hopkins.



Dale Murray was born in 1935. He made a career of heavy duty mechanics and lives in Osoyoos, B.C. where he has his own business. In 1958 he married a local girl and they have three sons.

Betty Louise was born in 1937 in the Viking Hospital. Following a business course she has made a career of office work. In 1961 she married Trevor Tannant and they have three children. They now live at Fort St. John, B.C. where she works in the office of Texaco Oil Co. and her husband is an engineer at the Petrocan Refinery. Two of their children are now in University.

Shortly after we were married in 1931 we moved to Holden where Bill bought grain for the U.G.G. Company until he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1941. We were thrilled to have a job and a nice little company house to live in and most delighted to discover that natural gas was available. We were not delighted however, over our first meal in our new home. Something was wrong with the food and especially the tea. Then we tasted the water that Bill had carried from the "town well" and realized it was very salty and we wondered if that was the only water available. We melted snow which also made horrible tea. The water situation was most frustrating for all of the years we lived there. Our house was situated at the east end of the block in which the Roman Catholic Church was located.

The first year there was very little grain to buy due to the fact that the crops had been almost wiped out by hailstorms. Because of this, Bill's monthly salary was \$75.00 less \$20.00 for house rental. Ten months later he received a \$50.00 raise just in time to pay the expenses of having our first son. In the next five years two more sons and a daughter arrived. For years the little house was almost constantly in a state of bedlam and I felt like the old woman who lived in a shoe. I wonder if that was the reason why Bill spent so much time playing hockey, baseball, softball, tennis etc. etc.!! One year Pearl Crimmin stayed with us and attended High School and helped me to cope with the family. Don Allan was courting Pearl at the

time and he was a frequent visitor, always bringing along a book to read while Pearl was doing her homework after we got the little ones to bed.

I remember a December night in the late thirties. Bill was feeling very ill as a result of having attended an all-night "Smoker" in the Hall the previous night. Loading grain cars during the day had aggravated his "condition" so he retired early and I went to the hall to play badminton. Mrs. Liden rushed into the hall and said that she saw fire in the cupola of Bill's elevator. I ran home and wakened Bill by screaming "Your elevator is on fire"!! Many people gathered at the scene but nothing could be done except to bring out the contents of the office so we watched it burn down. Not knowing how the company manager was going to react when he heard the news we were very worried about being out of a job. However we were told that a new one would be built immediately and that Bill would remain on the pay-roll. What a relief!!

My fondest memories of the Holden district are of the people. No one had much money but they had something more precious — kindness and sociability. We had great times in people's homes, at church suppers and other church socials, at dances in the hall and bridge parties. I will never forget the fun we had practicing for several plays and an operetta that we put on. Amateur Nights were fun too. Gatherings at the Campbell farm home were frequent and their hospitality was famous and fabulous. Beth is still as wonderful as ever!

I particularly appreciated the kindness shown to me and my family after Bill enlisted in the R.C.A.F. He told me the war would be over in six months but it was almost five years before he got home. It helped knowing that there were so many kind people to help me when I got into difficulties. I remember a farmer bringing me two big live chickens in a gunny sack and I was thankful for them, but I had never killed a chicken and it was with great trepidation that I chopped off their heads with an axe. The kids were horrified!

After the war we moved to this beautiful Okanagan Valley to "pick up the pieces", start a new life and become a family again. Bill went into highway construction until shortly before he passed away in 1961. I have found wonderful friends here too and I am enjoying my retirement, and remain involved in the affairs of the community.

Houston, Jack

submitted by Mrs. Annie Dent (relative)

Mr. and Mrs. Houston were married in Toronto in 1912. "Hoosie", pet name for her, was born Charlotte Stewart, in 1886, in Belfast, Ireland. She immigrated with her family to Toronto in 1903. Jack

immigrated to New York, U.S.A. then to Toronto where he met his wife-to-be. He was born in 1889, in Magherafelt, County Londonderry, N. Ireland. He passed away in 1979 and "Hoosie" passed away in 1967. Well-known for her beautiful voice and her renditions of "Mother Macree" whenever asked, she was a singer in North Broadview Presbyterian Church where she met Jack at a church social. They married and came west in the summer of 1912. They picked up supplies in Edmonton, and travelled by wagon, heading up the Cooking Lake Trail to the Holden homestead near Talbot School. They told of



Jack and "Hoosie" Houston and Alex Harris.

how they arrived in a downpour of rain, with no roof over their heads until one could be built. Their supplies had to be dried out gradually when it stopped raining a few days hence and they were always to remember their honeymoon spent under the wagon by night.



Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Houston.

Jack was an ardent reader, and supporter of the C.C.F. to life's end. He retired to Edmonton in 1949, then farmed at Easyford, Alberta where he also struck Oil. He returned to Edmonton in 1949, then worked as a carpenter in Yellowknife and Hay River. By 1963, he settled down in Edmonton, maintaining property at Drayton Valley, Holden and Edmonton. He continued to be interested in politics and news of the world until his death.

Thoughts by Jack Houston * * * Dedicated to his Mother (believed to have been written during the last year of Jack's life)

Dear Mother, to you I dedicate these lines, with
reverence and love,

Life's mysteries I cannot understand more than the
stars above.

Room whence it came I cannot tell the secret of its
laws,

I only know how Mother Love a shelter o'er it draws.
My earliest recollections are of your protecting care,
And of life's future perils you warned us with a
prayer.

Remember the evenings in our homeland, where the
family all took part?

The stories you read out to us beside the open hearth,
Tales of lands and other folk and then the family
worship

Before we went to sleep.

But now your brood is scattered far beyond the
oceans wide —

Full many a weary league you and them divide.
Perhaps you could have held us in those islands of the
seas

Amongst its dells and banshees.

Yet you chose a wider vision for young eyes to
behold

In your wisdom you have led us far beyond that
humble fold.

Now your brow is furrowed, your step is getting
slow,

'Tis the twilight of your evening, that quiet after-
glow,

Those toil worn years, the burden of your days,
For duty done and battles won, we offer humble
praise.

That torch you held to show the way to brighter better
things,

We pledge to keep it shining till the last great trumpet
rings.

Then in this changing world of ours, of life and death
and strife,

That great undying timeless thing of Mother Love
still reigns.

Hoveland, Christian Lewis by Rueben and Raymond Hoveland

Our father was born in Newmen Grove Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1885 the second youngest of Lars and Bertha Hoveland who emigrated from Utseria, Norway in 1882. Dad had four brothers, Lewis, Ludvig, George and Johnnie and two sisters, Lena (Mrs. Gust Johnson), and Christina (Mrs. Cornelius Heckt). The family grew up on a farm at Newmen Grove. Over the years our Dad and Uncle Johnnie visited many times with their brothers and sisters who home



Chris Hoveland.

steaded in the Palmer and Earling district. Dad was visiting here in winter of 1906 helping his brother-in-law haul feed which wasn't easy as there was one hundred inches of snow. Later on in years people called it the snow winter. In the spring of 1907, Dad and Uncle Johnnie went back to Newmen Grove and farmed there with our grandfather Lars Hoveland until 1917 when they once again came to Alberta, this time to live here. They took up a pre-emption at Atlee, Alberta. Here they started farming and raising cattle. Prairie land had to be broken, they did this by using four horses and a John Deere Sulky, a one bottom plow, doing about one and a half acres a day. Dad broke two hundred to two hundred and fifty acres all by horse and plow which we still have here on our farm at Holden. We remember Dad saying the first horses that he purchased were from the Bratrud Brothers, Ryley, Alberta.

In 1923 Dad married Gunda Marie Forre, to this union three sons were born, Rueben, Raymond and Glen. In 1927 our mother passed away. That left Dad



Valborg Augustine, Mable and Gunda Hoveland.

to care for three small boys, Glen being thirteen months old. Aunt Mable and Uncle Martin Meadhal took Glen to live with them at Bawlf till he got a little older. Dad used to take us with him to the field until we were able to look after ourselves.

In 1935 we moved to the Ohaton district. We remember the Provincial Government then, the U.F.A. helped farmers who wished to move from the dry lands of southern Alberta, to more productive areas of Central Alberta. The provincial government supplied three box cars free of charge. An additional box car if required cost \$75.00. Dad and Uncle Johnnie then purchased land south of Holden, section 3-48-16, Johnnie moved to Knudt Johnson's farm which he farmed until his tragic accident in June of 1951. Dad farmed until 1972 then he went to Bethany Home at Camrose where he lived until his passing in 1974.

Raymond, after completing high school and college worked for the Holden School Division #17, as assistant secretary treasurer for five years. A few years thereafter he went "Seismographing" with rigs we owned known as Cardinal Drilling. In 1961, he was employed by the Village of Holden as secretary treasurer and was also secretary treasurer for the Holden Drainage District #1 and for three Rural Mutal Telephone Companies until the present underground system was put into operation. Also, he was



Glen, Rueben and Raymond Hoveland.

secretary treasurer for the Bruce R.E.A. He left Holden and worked as town administrator at Canmore, Alberta, Herbert, Saskatchewan, Ryley, Lamont and at present at Gleichen, Alberta.

Rueben stayed on the home place. In 1961 he bought the old Knudt Johnson farm and is still farming. In 1972 he married Alice Laskoski. They have a daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Ted Helboe) who lives in Sherwood Park, with their two children, Darren and Robin Lee. They also have a son Curtis who attends Holden School.

Glen married Helen Hallgren from Kingman, Alberta in 1951 and lives at Delburne, Alberta. They have four children, Rodney is married and lives in Delburne. Roger is employed by the Red Deer Fire Dept. Glenice is a registered nurse at Calgary. Dean is in the Hoveland Trucking Service and lives at home.

Hovland, Lewis M. and Family by Mrs. Lucille Hovland McKee

Lewis Hovland was born in 1870 at Utseria, Norway. He was a son of Lars Hovland. His two brothers, Ludvig and George, and his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Johnson (Lena) had moved to America and settled at Newman Grove, Nebraska. Dad decided to go out there also, which he did in 1882. In 1894 he went to Sheldon, Iowa where he met

Augusta Amelia Seaborg who had come over from Eksho, Sweden in 1896. Mother was born in 1873 at Eksho, Sweden. Dad and Mother were married in 1897.

Dad was working on the section, so they moved around a great deal. They lived in George, Iowa, until 1901, when they moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they stayed until 1904.

They immigrated to Alberta, Canada, and settled on a homestead near where his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Knut Johnson lived. This was later to become known as the Palmer District.

They landed at Wetaskiwin in the fall of 1904, with three small girls, Malinda, Amanda and Lucille. After getting their supplies, Mother went with the driver, taking the girls with her to Knut Johnson's. Dad waited until the next day and brought the furniture with him. They all travelled by horse drawn wagon. The homestead was about fifty miles north-east. They lived in a sod house until Uncle Knut's



The Hovland family: Kay, Lucille, Sophia, Dad, Mother, Malinda, Amanda, Lawrence, Clara and Oscar.

new calf barn was built. This was the birthplace of Clara and Oscar, twins, born three weeks after they arrived. There was no doctor near, so with the help of an Indian woman, Mrs. Labracane, all three were saved. A doctor arrived later from Wetaskiwin.

Dad lost no time in building their own log house with the help of the neighbours. It had a sod roof. Later more buildings were built. In 1907 twin girls, Kathryn and Sophia were born. Lawrence was born in 1913, making a family of six girls and two boys.

Mother was kept very busy helping Dad, besides looking after the house and eight children. She sewed all their clothes and with a rubbing board and sad iron kept them neat and clean. All the bread and sweets had to be made at home in a wood stove. Many were the beautiful loaves of bread made by Mother. The women often had to milk, separate and make the butter. They raised their own chickens and often sold their eggs.

Dad was busy clearing land so they could plant

some grain, potatoes and garden. There were lots of rocks and roots to clear away after the trees were cut. Money was scarce so Dad trapped muskrats to buy his first wagon. He caught a lot of fish, hunted jack rabbits and prairie chicken to help with the meat supply.

Both Dad and Mother took an active part in community affairs. A school had to be built, and later a church. The school was a mile east of Dad's place and was called Palmer, after the place where Uncle Knut came from in Norway. All of we children took up to grade nine there.

A church had been organized with services held in the various homes and later in the school. The minister usually arrived the day before by buggy or sleigh, and spent the night at one of the homes.

Dad and Mother were both charter members of Zion Church, and they continued active in it until their passing.

A lovely two storey frame house was built close to the old house. Later a large barn and other buildings were built. The new windmill was a great help, as before the water was drawn from a well by a rope on which was fastened a bucket. The well often served as a cooling place for the milk and cream.

Winter was a fun time when the horses were hitched to the sleigh and with the bells jingling we'd go visiting friends. The family cuddled in the wagon box on straw with a heated rock and blankets. If not too cold, the distance passed quickly as we were usually singing or laughing.

In 1922 Dad and Mother celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at their own home with most of the children present, and in 1935 held their fortieth anniversary at the home place, with family, friends and neighbours.

Mother was in good health until the last few years when she became totally blind. In those days there was no help for the blind so mother was cared for by her husband, son Lawrence, and at times her daughter, Kathryn. She passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Malinda Roth, in Camrose, at the age of sixty eight years, in 1942 as the result of a heart attack. She is interred in her home cemetery at Zion Church.

Dad continued to live on the home place with his son Lawrence helping him, until Lawrence married, then Dad turned the farm over to him and moved to Camrose. For his age he was in very good health. He looked after his own little home, and took daily walks downtown for groceries and to visit friends and relatives. About two years before his death he took seriously ill and required major surgery. He never seemed to recover from this fully, so he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Clara Forre. He passed away

at the age of eighty four in 1954, and was laid to rest beside his wife.

At the time of Dad's death six of the children were living in Alberta. Two, a daughter, Amanda and a son Oscar passed away in Washington, U.S.A.



Four generations: Lars Hovland, Lewis Hovland, Malinda, Melvin and Vernon Roth.

The children: Malinda, the eldest, married Albert Roth in 1919, and they had four children, Malvin, Vernon, Clara and Bobbie. Albert owned and operated Pioneer Garage in Camrose until his death in 1964. Malinda continues to reside in Camrose.



Amanda and granddaughter Mary Lynne.

Amanda, born in 1900 was married to Earl Ent and they lived in Anacortes, Washington. They had a son Kenneth and a daughter, Hazel. Earl passed away in 1941. In 1944 Amanda married Bill Marrs of Anacortes, who passed away in 1957. Amanda passed away in 1967 after a lingering illness.



Bob McKee's family, 1969.

Lucille, born in 1901, attended Camrose Normal School and taught school for a number of years. While teaching at Atlee, she met Bob McKee, whom she married in 1928. Bob was employed with the C.P.R. until his retirement in 1969. They lived at Summerland, B.C. until Bob's sudden passing in 1971. They have one son Bob Jr. and two grandsons. Lucille moved back to Camrose where she now resides.

Oscar and his twin sister Clara were born in 1904. Oscar helped his dad on the farm for a few years, worked on a farm near Wetaskiwin, and for Alfred



Oscar Hoveland.

Sanderson and Sigurd Augustine of Holden. After his sister Amanda was widowed, he went to Anacortes, Washington to be with her. For many years he worked in a sawmill there. Later he worked on fishing boats. While working for them he lost his life as a result of a lung condition following an accident on one of the ships in 1959.

Oscar was a member of Anacortes Eagles Lodge, and will be remembered as a friend of children at Christmas time. If he found that someone was in need or in trouble, he was right there to help. He was described by his friends as a "diamond in the rough", with a heart as big as his body. After a memorial service in Anacortes, he was laid to rest beside his parents at Zion Cemetery.



Clara and Lewis Forre's 50th Anniversary.



Kay and Gunnar Holte's wedding. Rev. Odland, Lawrence, Finsted, Gunnar, Kay, Emma Knutson, Clara Nelson, Mother, Dad, Ernie Forre, Lois Hovland, Eleanor Bruce. Outside Hovland home.

Clara, Oscar's twin, married Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peder Forre of the Palmer district. Lewis was born in Nebraska in 1897, and came to Alberta as a child. After their marriage in 1925, Lewis and Clara farmed in the Likeness district until their retirement in 1969, when they moved to Camrose. Lewis passed away in 1981. Clara continues to reside in Camrose. They have three sons, Chester, Ernest and Leroy, as well as eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Kathryn and Sophia were born in 1907, the second set of twins born to Lewis and Augusta Hovland. Kathryn met Gunner Holte while he was a competitor at a ski tournament in Camrose. They were married in 1941.

They lived in Lethbridge where Gunner was a partner in a construction business until 1963. The partners then bought a motel at Waterton Park. After five years they sold and retired, and presently Gunner and Kay reside in Lethbridge. Both keenly interested in sports, they enjoy curling, bowling, camping and fishing.



Seated: Lawrence and Connie Hovland. Standing: Marilyn, Lorraine, and Vernon.

In 1945 he married Constance Lien of Ryley. His dad moved to Camrose and Lawrence took over the farm. They have three children, Lorraine, Vernon and Marilyn.

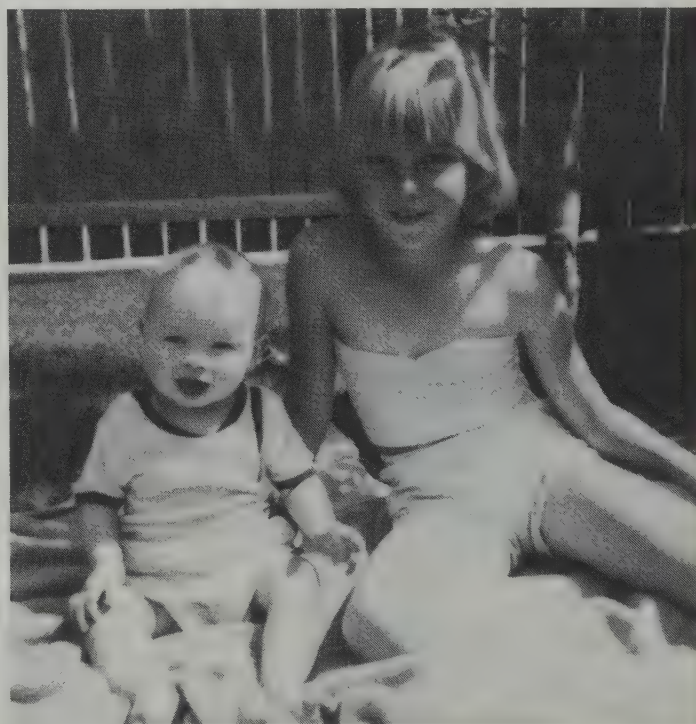
Lorraine lives at home. Vernon works for Voyager besides farming the NE 2-48-17, the quarter of land he purchased from the Phillip Sorgen estate. He also rents his father's land. In 1980 he married Kathleen Dunn of Salmon Arm, B.C. They have one son Jesse.



John Bruce family. Back Row: Elmer, Marvin, Roger John, Merlin. Front Row: Janet, Eleanor, Sophie.

Sophia married John Bruce in 1929, and they farmed in the Likeness district. Although they are now retired, they continue to reside in their farm home. Their son Elmer farms the land. They have four sons and two daughters, Marvin, Eleanor and Elmer (twins), Roger, Merlin and Janet. Marvin was superintendent of schools for the County of Beaver in the early seventies. They also have fifteen grandchildren.

Lawrence, born in 1913, was the youngest of eight children born to Lewis and Augusta. He took all his schooling at Palmer and afterwards assisted his dad with farming operations.



Jesse Hovland and Christina McMillan, grandchildren of Lawrence and Connie Hovland.

Marilyn, a teacher, has taught at Falun (West of Wetaskiwin) for the past five years. In 1971 she married Donald McMillan of Burnaby, B.C. They have one daughter, Christina.

Lawrence is now semi-retired, but continues to be active in church and community affairs.

Howrish, Jim

Jim Howrish, who was the son of William and Melanka; and his wife Katie who was the daughter of William and Mary Andruchow, moved to the Holden area in 1943 where they farmed four and one half miles north of Holden.

Jim and Katie both grew up in the Chipman area, where they met. They were married in 1926. They farmed in the Viking and Chipman areas until their final move to Holden. There they purchased five quarter-sections and built the home where they raised their six children: Walter, Mike, Stanley, Stella, Ernest and Paul. Two other daughters, Olga and Elizabeth died at an early age.



Howrish family. Standing: Walter, Stanley, Mike, Ernest, Paul. Seated: Jim, Katie and Stella.

Their eldest, Walter, married Olga Kitt from Chipman and they had six children. Edward married Olga Seniak from Chipman. They had three children. Ernie married Annette Strilchuk from Round Hill and they had six children. Walter, Mike and Ernie moved to Spirit River in 1958 where they went into the construction, logging and farming business.

Stanley married Mary Chronik from Thorsby and they had three children. Stan was in the oil business and returned to Holden in 1978 where they purchased the farm where his wife Mary, now resides. Stan passed away in 1982.

Jim and Katie's only living daughter Stella, married Joe Komarnisky. They have two sons and operate Beaver Motors in Holden.

Paul, unmarried, has operated the home farm with his mother, since Jim's death in 1976.

Jim and Katie have twenty grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren to date.

Hrabec, Dmytro by Mike Hrabec

My father came to Canada in the spring of 1911 from Chernokewski, Ukraine to Calgary, where his brother John was working. He got a job with a road crew building roads till the war started in 1914. During this time he and his brother, Mofte, were working for a farmer near Calgary by name of Captain Eaton, who had to go to the Army.



Back Row: John, Mary and Mike Hrabec. Middle Row: Mrs. Hrabec, Dmytro Hrabec. Fr. Pornchie, Mr. Pozerniuk. Front Row: Rose, Paul and Olga Hrabec.

In 1917 he came to the Haight district where his brother John was already farming, and bought a quarter of land (SW 50-21-16-W4). He then went back to work for Captain Eaton until the spring of 1918 when he came back and started farming. That same year he married Nancy Baranuik. She came to Canada in 1901 with her parents from Borzchiw, Ukraine, to the district known as Bathgate near Beaver Lake.

My parents were blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. Mike, John, Mary, Olga, Rose and Paul and all attended Holmdene School. After finishing school they all left home to pursue their various careers. I stayed home and farmed with my parents.

I took the farming operation over in 1957 and continued till 1971 when I sold the farm to Mr. Ludwig and moved to Vegreville with my mother. I worked for Raydon's Sales Ltd. until 1978 when I retired. I presently reside in Vegreville.

Dad passed away in 1969 at the age of 78 and Mother in 1981 at the age of 81. My brother Paul



Mr. and Mrs. Dmytro Hrabec.

(known as Father Peter) passed away in 1979 at the age of 51. John and Olga live in Edmonton, Mary is in Renfrew, Ontario, and Rose lives at Mundare, Alberta.

Hrabec, Harry

Harry Hrabec was born in 1909, the youngest of nine children. At the age of sixteen Harry left home in the Ukraine to seek his fortune in Canada. In 1925 he came to the Rley district where four of his brothers were already farming. He was employed by local farmers until 1933, when he married Dorothy Baraniuk, whose parents were pioneers northwest of Holden.



Harry Hrabec family. Back Row: Susan, Lawrence, Eileen. Front Row: Paul, Harry, Olga, Dorothy, Marian and Ernest.

Harry and Dorothy farmed rented land for three years and then bought a half section ten miles south of Rley. After six years they sold their land and purchased more land four miles west of Bruce. Only half a mile away on his land was a school which was convenient for their seven children.

Eileen the eldest, married Eugene Siracky and they reside in Edmonton with their two girls. Susan married Fred Christopher and they live in Sherwood Park with their two sons and two daughters. Ernie and his two daughters are living in Edmonton. Paul married Val Kipitz, has two daughters and they live in Fort McMurray. Marian married Ed Wysochi and they have two sons and two daughters. They live in



Harry Hrabec with his first combine.

Fort McMurray. Olga married Lawrence Kalyinchuck and they reside in Sherwood Park with their two daughters. Lawrence the oldest of the boys, married Gina Vetik. They have two sons and one daughter. Lawrence and his family have been farming on the home place since 1964.

Harry and Dorothy, now retired, live in Holden. Editor's Note: Harry Hrabec passed away in October 1982.

Hrabec, John D.

Dmetro and Anastascia Hrabec's second son John was born in 1920. A three mile trek from the Hrabec farm to the Holmdene school for nine years together with a vast array of farm chore responsibilities kept John busy till fall of 1943. When John married Helen Safranovick, they set up a farming operation consisting of four cows, three pigs, twenty-five chickens, four horses and ½ section of land leased from the Dorin family. In 1948 they purchased the George Miskey farm and resided there till spring of 1973.

To John and Helen were born two daughters, Maxine in 1945 and Geraldine in 1950. Maxine married Ron Borowski of Mundare and they have three children, Shelly, Rhonda and Nathan. Geraldine married Ron Dawson of Bruce and they have a daughter Corrine.

John served with the Armed forces in 1942 and commendably gave his leisure time serving on a

number of committees, boards, and theatre productions in the Borschiw parish. He is however best remembered by serving as cantor for that parish for twenty-five years.

John also worked for Ruskenveld at Holden for approximately seven years as partsman. John and Helen presently reside in Edmonton where John has been employed as partsman by Pardu Equipment for the past eight years.

Hrabec, John Sr. and Family

In 1915, John, a foreman of road and railway building crews, bought a farm northwest of Holden in the vicinity of Haight. He married Eva Chomiak, in 1916 and raised a family of twelve children, who attended Thule and Haight Schools.

Ann married Mike Andrukow, a farmer at Viking. They have a family of three boys and one girl.

Harry, joined the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1940 and was sent overseas to England, then to Italy. He was wounded in Italy in 1942 and died in Shaughnessy Veterans Hospital in Vancouver, B.C. in 1951.



John Sr. Hrabec family. Standing: Martha, Barbara, Bill, Lena, Susie, Andy, Emily, Mary, Peter, Ann. Sitting: Eva and John.

Mary, worked in Edmonton and Vancouver, married Merv Brown in 1952. They now live in Terrace, B.C. and have two girls.

Peter took a technical course at Viking in 1939-40 and also helped his brother-in-law farm. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as an aero-mechanic in 1940-45. After V J Day he made up his mind to buy a farm thro' the V. L. A. from his Uncle Dmetro and his dad. Peter married Helen Liber in 1950. (see Peter Hrabec history)

Bill married Olga Frebrowski in 1946 and has two sons and a daughter. They live in the Haight district.

Emily married Paul Muzechka, a farmer in the Vegreville area in 1947, and has a family of five.

Lena married Nick Mochinski of Hardisty in 1950. They have a son and a daughter and live in Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

Susie, married Ernie Kozak in 1952. They live in Edmonton, and have two sons and a daughter.

Martha, married Peter Kiziak of the Kopernick district in 1951. They had six children, a son Douglas died in a freak industrial accident at Fort McMurray in 1975.

Meroslov died at the age of two of scarlet fever.

Barbara, married Ernie Sawchuk in 1968. They have two sons and live in Edmonton.

Andy the youngest, worked at Palm Dairies in Edmonton, later taking over the homestead. He married Helen Hejnar in 1971.

John and Eva retired to Holden in 1967. They then moved to the Vegreville Homestead Lodge in 1972. John passed away in 1974. Eva who is 89 years young is now living in the Vegreville Nursing Home.

Hrabec, Lawrence

Lawrence, was born in 1940, went to school in West Bruce, and finished his high school in Holden. He took over the family farm in 1964. In 1961 he



Lawrence, Vincent, Gina, Phillip and Bernice.

married Gina Vitek of Viking. They have three children, Vincent, presently residing in Fort McMurray and apprenticing to be an electrician at Syncrude, Phillip is farming with his dad and Bernice, who is also working in Fort McMurray.

Hrabec, Mike Family

Mike Hrabec immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in 1913 arriving in Calgary. In 1915 he joined his brothers John and Dmetro in the Holden District. Before he settled he worked on a farm for Mr. H. Christensen.



Counter clockwise: Mike and Anna Hrabec, Steve, Elsie, Bill, Martin, Pearl, Danny, Nancy, in 1973.

He met and married Anna Chomiak from Mundare area in 1922. They settled on a farm nine miles northwest of Holden (17-50-16-W4). They raised seven children, all of whom attended school at Thule.

The eldest, Martin, is single and farms in the Vegreville area.

Nancy married Nick Stuart in 1947 and they farm north of Holden. They have five children. Eileen married Raymond Baril. They have three children Renee, Alan and Michael. Marian married Malcom Dorin of Vegreville, formerly of Bruce. They have three children, Christopher, Marla and Craig. David married Leanne Dziki of Mannville. They have one child, Jennifer. They reside in Edmonton. Lawrence and Annette, both single, live at home.

Mike and Anna's third child Steve passed away in July 1977.

Elsie married Sam Miciak of Camrose, formerly of Bruce. They have two children Blaine and Kathleen. Elsie passed away in 1975.

Pearl married Charles Olesek of Edmonton formerly of Bruce. They have one child Jody-Anne.

Danny is single and farms in the Ryley District.

Bill of Edmonton, married Sonia Caruk of Mundare. They have one child Gregory.

Mike Hrabec passed away in 1974.

Editor's Note: Martin passed away in 1982.

Hrabec, Peter and Helen

by Helen Hrabec

Peter and Helen (Liber) met at Borschiw at a U.C.Y. New Years Eve Dance 1949. They were married in 1950, and settled on a farm north west of Holden.

Their family consisted of a daughter Patricia and three sons Raymond, Ivan and Eugene.

Patricia graduated from Holden School with a matric certificate. She enjoyed working with Mrs. Allan in the library during her spares, typing and filing cards for the new books. After her training in Edmonton, she graduated with a beauty culture certificate. She also took a year of education at the University of Alberta. She was a beautician for a few years and is now a secretary for a construction firm in Penticton, B.C. She married Gord Stephenson in 1978.



Ivan, Peter, Helen, Pat and Eugene Hrabec.

Raymond Hrabec
(1952-1974).





Andrew and Victoria Wasylyshyn (1915), great grandparents of Helen Hrabec. Team sold to Calgary Stampede Ass'n. in 1926, and later shown at Chicago World Fair!

Raymond got his education in Holden and Vegreville Composite School. He worked for Head Hunters in Edmonton. We lost Ray in a car accident at Hi-way 16 — Mundare junction, in 1974.

Ivan got his education in Holden and is working for Custom Chain in Edmonton.

Eugene, our youngest, is attending Holden Junior High School.

Hultholm, Algot and Laura by Laura Hultholm

Algot Sigvald (Albert) Hultholm, born in 1911, was one of eleven children, born to their Swedish parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Hultholm of Petalax, Finland. He attended school there, and at the age of eighteen he and his eldest brother emigrated to Canada in 1929. They landed in Halifax, neither one of them speaking or understanding a word of English. They travelled across Canada by train to Vancouver, where they found work at the Fraser sawmills. In the fall of 1929 the depression set in, with sawmills and logging camps closing down part time. Work was hard to find. His brother returned to his homeland, and Algot rode the freight train to Alberta in the fall of 1931, as many others were doing. A number of these men stopped off at Ryley, where farmers were

looking for men for harvest. Algot was hired by Edgar Nord, for one dollar per day for stooking and one dollar and fifty cents per day for threshing. This is where he met me, Laura Thomlinson, as I was working at the same farm.



Standing: Allan, Greta, Donald. Seated: Laura and Algot Hultholm.

I was born in 1911, at Bremner, Alberta, where my father, George Albert (Bert) Thomlinson homesteaded in 1887. My mother, the former Annie Phillips, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips, who came west in 1892, homesteading at Clover Bar, until they moved to Holden in 1909. They farmed north of Holden until moving to Abbotsford, B.C. in about 1920.

Algot and I were married in 1935 at Ryley, and lived there until 1941, when we bought NW 13-50-16-4, seven miles north of Holden from Ernest Ames.

Three children were added to our family, Allan in 1936, Greta in 1938, and Donald in 1941. The children attended Holmdene school until it closed and the school bus took them to Holden school.

Algot was on the local school board, when the school bus was organized for the Holmdene district. The parents had to see that the roads were kept open for the bus, as there were no snow plows in those days. Many times after a storm the snow had to be shoveled by hand. Algot was also active in other local organizations in the Holden area, such as the Adams R.E.A., The Seed Cleaning Plant Provisional Board and the Holden Lutheran Church, where we were members. I was a member of the Lutheran Church Women for thirty years, taking my turn at holding the various offices.

The children were members of the Holden 4-H Beef Club, where Algot was club leader for eleven years.

As the years passed and prices improved, we bought the S½ 24-50-16-4 from Thomas Bishop, which adjoined our land. Tom lived in his home until he passed away. He was one of the early settlers of the area. Later we also bought the John Kuzyk and Bill Rurka places. It was a mixed farming operation, but later we went into the broiler chicken business.

When school days were over, Allan worked for a time at Black's Store in Holden. He then moved to Camrose to work. He married Alice Lee of Camrose in 1957. They moved to Holden and took over the Red and White Food Store for a few years. Then they sold to Marvin Geibelhaus and moved back to Camrose, where he worked as a salesman. They had two children, Kevin and Brenda. At the time of his untimely death in 1970, he was sales manager for Crawford Motors. Alice married Phil Botly, and they presently live in Oakville, Ontario.

Greta worked at the Royal Bank in Holden before marrying Otis Phillips of Worsley, Alberta in 1957. They lived in Edmonton and at Worsley before coming to Ryley in 1960, where they farm. They have a family of four, Brent, Dean, Mark and Lori-Ann. They also have one granddaughter.

Donald stayed home and farmed with his father for twenty years. We won the Farm Family Award in 1972. Don took over the farm when we retired and moved to Camrose in 1976. The same fall he married Lydia Smuk of Edmonton, who was born in Germany and came to Canada with her parents in 1950. They have a son, David. Don and Lydia still raise broiler chickens and have a herd of Maine Anjou Cattle.

He was a 4-H member for twelve years, winning the National 4-H trip to Toronto in 1962. He moved from being a member to the role of Club leader, a position he held for thirteen years. He also served in various capacities on the district and Regional 4-H Council, also on the Provincial and Canadian Councils. He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal for his many years of service in 4-H.

Algot and I have done a fair amount of travelling, including three trips to Finland. The first trip was in 1959 to see his aging parents whom he had not seen for thirty years.

Hunchak, George and Doris

George and Doris Hunchak moved to the Holden district in 1954. The farm, better known to the earlier settlers as the Kennedy farm, is located on SW 6-49-16. We were told that the tall spruce trees in our yard, an outstanding landmark, were planted in 1904.

I, George, was born and raised in the Willingdon district and Doris was born and raised in the Vilna area. During the second World War I enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and after I returned, we were able to purchase our land through the Veteran's Land Act.

Our joy was complete when our chosen son Harvey Craig came to live in our home and we enjoyed watching him grow up. Harvey attended school in Holden and graduated in 1979. At present he is employed at Forestburg Collieries Ltd.

We continue to live on the farm and enjoy it, and hopefully it will remain in the family when we retire.

Hurum Family

The Hurum family in the Holden district is now into its fifth generation. It began with the arrival of Alfred and Anna from Norway where each was born and raised in the late 1800's. Following their marriage in 1897, two sons were born: Bjarni in 1899 and Otto in 1900.

When Alfred migrated to Canada, he settled first in Calgary where he worked for the Eaucclair Saw Mill and Power Plant. In 1903, the year following, Anna and the boys arrived. They remained in Calgary until 1906 when they moved and took up a



Anna and Alfred Hurum.

homestead north of Bawlf. While they proved up the homestead, Anna was also busy in the community quilt-making. She had brought with her from Norway a portable, hand-cranked, sewing machine which proved invaluable. This antique remains in the Hurum family today.

In 1911, the Hurums moved to Holden; here Alfred started a draying business. The boys began school at Pleasant Ridge where they continued until Holden School was completed. "Completed" at that time meant the ground floor of the old brick school to which was later added a second storey, all of which remained in use until the 1950's.

After draying for a time, Alfred began operating a butcher shop in the building right north of the present Lucky Dollar Store. The family lived upstairs there and the business had thrived for three years when Alfred decided to take up farming again. He purchased cattle, horses, and machinery and began farming the N $\frac{1}{2}$ and part of the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 13-49-16. This land was adjacent to the village and the boys delivered fresh milk to the residents. The Hurums had lived within town at this time, but in 1920 they moved to the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 6-49-15. Over the next few years, Bjarni and Otto each took land of their own east of Holden, as well.

Alfred and Anna eventually retired in 1934 when they built a small house on Otto's land. In 1935, they

moved their house to the eastern edge of town, on the Leungh property.

Both were members of the Lutheran church from its early days, and Anna was a member of the Ladies' Aid for many years. Although Alfred could speak fluent English early due to his outgoing nature, Anna stayed close to home and had neither the need nor inclination to learn other than Norwegian. She was never able, then, to converse freely with her grandchildren; but she never failed to dispense cookies and coffee (with lots of sugar lumps) when they came to call. This is likely largely the reason all the Hurum children are inveterate coffee drinkers today.

Anna and Alfred remained in their house until they passed on; Alfred in 1949, and Anna in 1952.

After acquiring land, Bjarni did not stay with farming; but chose, rather, to do carpentry work. Many of the houses in Holden were his doing. He was a talented sportsman, and local hockey and baseball teams were glad to have him on their side. In 1938, Bjarni was married to Martha Siegal and to this union one daughter, Genevieve, was born. Bjarni's life was to be short, however, for he died in the aftermath of an emergency appendicitis operation in Innisfail



Genevieve, Martha and Barney Hurum.

where he was working in 1942. Genevieve remained with her mother on the Siegal farm and completed her schooling in Holden. Much of her leisure time was spent in the company of the neighbouring Hurum cousins before she left for Edmonton. There she subsequently settled with her husband, George Rennich. They are the parents of three daughters: Arlene (McDonald), Janet and Crystal.

Otto ultimately settled on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 7-49-15, and farmed it and the adjacent land. His mixed farming operation included a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle as well as a milking herd. In 1930, he married Kathleen Mouat and they began farming at the onset

of the depression. The weather and the economy predictably took its toll. Wheat sold for 17 cents per bushel. Eggs were 10 cents per dozen. Pigs sold for \$5.00 and cream fetched \$2.00 per 5 gallon can. Drought was not the only foe; in 1931 a hailstorm on August 4th wiped out the total five quarters in crop. Even the windmill did not stand the wrath of the storm. The oats that did come back was shipped to southern Alberta for feed, and thus began the depression in earnest.

In 1933, Kathleen and Otto built a small house which was added to in 1938. Lawrence arrived in 1934, and over the next 10 years, three sisters — Betty, Grace and Carol joined him. As they grew all four were baptized, confirmed, and married in the Holden Lutheran Church.

The 40's and 50's were, in retrospect, a great time to be growing up. The depression was over, and the swift pace of life of later years was still far ahead.

Right in to the early 1950's, the fall crop was harvested by the crew that rolled in with Art Siegal's threshing machine. As many as twelve men would have to be fed three times a day (plus a hearty lunch) during their stay, and everything was homemade, right down to the butter. All this without benefit of refrigeration until the later years. The younger men hauling bundles, Lawrence among them, lightened the hard work with contests to see who could make it to the thresher with the biggest load. Loads of 750 bundles (if they were small) were known to sway precariously to their destination.

Threshing season brought the harvest special, carrying men from eastern Canada to the West where they were hired on as extra hands. One fall brought to the Hurum farm an unforgettable French-Canadian. A likeable chap, he soon made it obvious that he was very superstitious. As kids will play upon the vulnerability of people, the girls hid out midway between the barn and house one night. According to plan, along came the hired hand, carrying two pails of milk.

When the girls draped in white sheets, rose moaning and wailing from the ground, the results were better than hoped for. Splat! went the milk and away he fled to the house where he was found in a rather flustered state, to say the least.

Haying was a family affair. Kathleen did all the raking with a dump rake, while Otto and Lawrence, sometimes with Art Siegal, did the stacking. The girls packed up their homemade suitcases (compliments of Grandpa Davis) and spent the days playing house, making trails in the uncut hay, or "riding the buck" as it carried hay to the stack. Meals were eaten in the shade of the stack which also provided refuge from sudden thunderstorms.

Summer was also the time for mudpies. Every summer, the girls operated their "delicatessen" from an empty granary. And the rafts they made! Anything from an old pig trough to custom-made models floated the sloughs each summer. This was also the time for domestic achievement days. All the dairy calves on the farm were taught to lead; some for 4-H, the rest for farmyard fun.

There were no riding horses, only those for work. One such, however, was Old Billy. This old farmyard nag's main, undistinguished duty was hauling the manure. As a diversion for both horse and kids, Lawrence would line up Billy and the stoneboat in the barn, and the girls would wait outside. As horse and driver came through the door, the girls would rattle newspapers. Old Billy was afraid of the sound and away he would go! He never broke any speed records, but for Billy, it was fast.

The summer of 1950 is a memorable one. That was the year Calgary Power came through, and the luxury of electricity was gained.

It was also "the year of the tent". Using some old canvas and linoleum pieces, a tent was fashioned off in the pasture. Evensons were down for a holiday, and good friends, the Boettchers were over for the evening. The intricacies of the wiring necessary to hold this abode upright were not understood by visitors, and due to some spooky dealings in the dark, Art Boettcher was nearly decapitated.

The fall of 1950 saw the start of school for the youngest, and she was off to begin studies in the same Brick school where her dad attended forty years before.



Kathleen and Otto Hurum, 50th Anniversary.

Over the years, Kathleen and Otto were active in community affairs. Both were early members of the church choir which motored to its singing engagements in the back of Ed Christianson's truck. In addition to their church activities, both were members of various community organizations. Otto served as leader of the 4-H Grain Club as well as a member of the Dairy Club Committee. He is a charter member of the B.P.O. Elks and Senior Citizens, the latter of which he was the first president.

Kathleen has been a member of the Lutheran Ladies (LCW) since 1931 and has held office numerous times. She is a charter member of the O.O.R.P., the S.C.W.A. and the Senior Citizens, as well as the Historical Society which is responsible for this book. She also served as Club Leader for the 4-H Garden Club at one time, and has been a member and officer of the Cemetery Committee for years.

Lawrence pursued the farming urge from an early age. During his youth he was a member of three 4-H clubs; grain, dairy, and beef. He remained on the farm after his schooling and following his marriage to Olga Pipke in 1957, he rented additional land. They eventually took over the "home" place in 1965 when Kathleen and Otto retired to town, and have enlarged their operation over the years. Dairy cattle had always been an integral part of the Hurum farm, and for a number of years, Lawrence and Olga sold milk commercially. Grain and beef are now their main concerns.

Their two children, Roger and Kathy, carried on the 4-H tradition by their membership in the Beef Club; Kathy won an exchange trip to Minnesota for her endeavours. Both completed their schooling in Holden, and Kathy continued on, earning her R.N. at the Royal Alexandra Hospital where she is currently employed. Roger remained in the Holden district where he trucks as well as farms with Lawrence. Horses have always been a major interest for him and he became quite proficient at "head and heel" roping. Roger was married in 1981 to Cindy Neufeld.

The girls in the Hurum family all completed their public schooling in Holden. Betty's 4-H activities won her a trip to the Royal Winter Fair in 1955. She worked for three years in the local Post Office before her marriage to Ernest Koetke. They now farm south of Holden and have three children: Greg, Karen (Pederson), and Lori. Mother and daughters are known for their excellence at sewing. (Both Betty and Karen made their own wedding dresses.)

Grace and Carol both went to university and entered the teaching profession. After teaching for two years in Holden, Grace married William Shandro. They later moved to Edmonton where Grace completed her degree and currently teaches



Back Row: Grant, Roger, Greg, Murray, Jeff. Second Row: Don, Lawrence, Olga, Kathie, Lori, Betty, Karen, Ernie, Beverly, Bill, Grace. Front Row: Kerri, Kathleen, Jay, Otto.

elementary classes. They have 3 children: Jeff, Murray, and Beverly.

Carol began teaching in Viking following university. She remained there following her marriage to Don Maxwell and their three children — Grant, Kerri, and Jay — are all in school there.

Over the seventy-odd years that there have been Hurums in this community, they have experienced many triumphs and despairs meaningful within the family unit. Presently, they are thrilled to welcome the first member of the fifth Canadian generation of Hurums, Kimberley Kathleen, born 1982, to Roger and Cindy.

Hurum, Harold

For ten years, from 1909-1919, Holden was the home of the Harold Hurum family. Born in Honefos, Norway, Harold immigrated to Canada in the early 1900's and settled north of Bawlf on a homestead. Soon thereafter, he met and married Esther Grahm who had come with her family from Sweden. To this union, a daughter, Stella, was born.



?, Margit, Esther, ?, Grace, Harold and Stella Hurum.

The decision to give up farming resulted in their move to Holden, for Harold traded his homestead to Arne Grosland and Lars Johnson for a store in the new, little town. (This store, originally called Johnson and Hurum, and later the Hurum Store was known to many in later years as the Liden Store.) Harold was an astute businessman and he prospered in his new venture.

While in Holden, Harold was an active member in community affairs, as well as a willing worker in the establishment of the Lutheran Church. Esther was an early member of the Ladies' Aid and their involvement in the church's early days, particularly in the purchase and placement of the bell, as told in the church history.

While the Hurums lived in Holden, two more daughters Margit and Grace, were born. In 1919, however, Harold sold his business, moved to Edmonton, and later to Matsqui, B.C. They remained at the west coast until their passing; Esther in 1946, and Harold in 1960.

Two daughters, Stella and Margit, made B.C. their home, as well, while Grace now lives in Ottawa. The only grandchildren of Harold and Esther, are Rosamund and Sylvia, daughters of Stella and Frank (now deceased) Wilson.

Huseby, Conrad and Alice by Conrad Huseby

I was born at home in the Palmer district in 1911 with Mrs. Knut Johnson in attendance as midwife. I received my education at Palmer School where Mrs. Carrie Bratrud was my first teacher. I recall many good Christmas concerts when Santa brought treats for all the children.

At an early age I began helping with the farm chores, feeding the livestock and milking cows. During the summer, when one or two cows would not come home for milking, Mother or Dad would send me out to get them. Sometimes if I found them right away, I would stay and pick some berries so as to get out of milking. As it turned out I would get left to milk the one I brought in late.

In the spring Dad kept from 16 to 22 horses in the barn and on weekends they would be turned out to pasture. We always kept a riding horse in the barn which was used to round them up again for work the next week.

At the age of eight Dad trusted me to cut hay with a team and mower, and to cut grain with a binder when I was nine. At fourteen I summerfallowed 104 acres with a triple plow and eight horses, and helped haul grain to Holden, Bawlf and Poe. The elevators were open on Saturdays so I did not lose any school time. Later I hauled with a grain tank, pulled by four



Conrad and Alice Huseby's 45th Wedding Anniversary. Standing: Sandra, Terrence, Duane and Denis. Seated: Alice and Conrad.

horses, and eventually trucks were used to haul grain to market.

During the winter of 1929 I took a mechanic's course at the Dominion Trade School in Edmonton and received a diploma qualifying me to repair and operate tractors. I gave Dad's Rumley Oilpull a complete overhaul that summer and had it ready for threshing that fall. I operated that tractor on the threshing route for nine consecutive years. Time passed and the Rumley was replaced by more modern tractors. It stood outside for years and some of the working parts were seized or missing. Henry repaired it and got it running again. So much for the tractor that burned coal oil and water and used oil for cooling the engine.

In the winter of 1934 I began a bookkeeping, filing and typing course at Alberta College in Edmonton and intended to complete it the following winter, but became more involved in farming and did not go back. While in Edmonton I went to the Y.M.C.A. once a week and did some exercising and some boxing.

I farmed with Dad for a number of years and had hired help at times. Henry, while teaching would help during part of his summer holidays. We cleaned our own seed grain for a number of years with a fanning mill turned by hand. Later a gas engine powered a more modern unit. Harry Johnson, Oscar Afseth and Leo Maruszczyka did custom cleaning and for many years cleaned our grain. We now have it cleaned by the County of Beaver Seed Cleaning Plant, or at the Camrose seed plant. Every so often we buy registered or certified seed. I have also kept a medium sized herd of cows and have raised a fair amount of Yorkshire, Landrace and Lacombe hogs.

In the early years I could use the family car when it was available and attended ball games, picnics and

sports day at Gladstone and Likeness. Occasionally I played ball and helped organize a senior men's team at Palmer.

The family often went to Holden on Saturday night. While Mother and Dad did their shopping, I would play the odd game of pool or take in a show.

The first time I met this good looking girl, Alice Henderson, was at a Holden Sports Day. Then some time later we met at a house party at the Nowodvorski home. By the spring of 1935 we were seeing quite a lot of each other. Alice and I attended the opening of the Holden Hall in 1935. Gordon Mohler, Conrad Brekke and I booked a room in the Holden Hotel, and left early in the afternoon to attend the first New Year's dance in the new hall. We put the team in the livery barn, and had supper at the hotel. As it was 30 below zero, not too many attended the dance. Alice, Earling and Ted Henderson had planned to attend, but the weather being so cold, used good common sense and stayed home.

Alice Henderson and I were married in 1936 in Central Lutheran Church in Edmonton. The first ten years of our married life we stayed on the farm that my dad bought from George Mohler's dad. The buildings were in the center of section 25-47-17. We called it "the house on the hill". After a lot of fixing and painting it was made quite livable, but if it was 30 or 40 below, ice would often form in the kettle on the stove. I was now leasing some of Dad's land, and we were milking a few cows, had some hogs and some chickens. I fattened some of Dad's cattle and he gave me three or four head for my work. This is how I got my start in cattle.

When Harry and Julia Johnson lived on their great grandfather's place, Harry and I each got a



Conrad and Alice Huseby and Betty and Percy Owen.

speaker and strung wire on top of fence posts, and had a fairly good communication system. Later I got permission from the Holden Mutual to build a line to the house.

In 1946 I bought the Westby farm, S½ 19-47-16. The Westbys lived on the farm for about 30 years. When Mr. Westby passed away, Mrs. Westby wanted to move back to Norway.

Over the years many improvements were made to the house to make living more comfortable. For a few years we had an A.C.D.C. power plant. Then in 1950 the Hampton R.E.A. was formed and Calgary Power was brought in. This was great, just flick the switch, and pay the bill! A few years ago the underground telephone cable was laid by A.G.T. In 1974 the Ankerton Gas Co-op was formed, and natural gas was brought to the rural areas. Homes and outbuildings are now heated in this way.

When the rural schools were centralized, and counties formed, gradual improvements were made to the roads and snow is plowed regularly so as to make school bus travel possible.

As well as being a good homemaker and a good cook, Alice has been active in community work. During W.W. II she did a great deal of sewing for the Red Cross and received an award for her work. She was a member of the Hegre Ladies' Aid and was always a willing worker at the Gladstone curling rink. Our family always enjoyed curling, and we sometimes curled as a team.

I began to enjoy curling when Martin Meadahl organized a team consisting of Martin, Henry Huseby, Leonard Johnson and me, and we curled in Holden for several seasons. As interest in curling grew it was decided to build the Gladstone Curling Rink in 1949. I became heavily involved in the project. Over the years I have been active in many local organizations. I was a member of the Palmer local school board, South Holden Mutual Telephone, the U.G.G., Alberta Wheat Pool, the A.M.A., Masonic Lodge, Dynamic #96 at Holden and am a life member of the Holden B.P.O. of Elks.

Alice and I have three sons and a daughter, Denis born in 1936, Duane in 1940, Terrence in 1945 and Sandra in 1947.

Denis attended Palmer and Gladstone schools, and took his high school at the Camrose Lutheran College. He also took piano lessons for a time. He married Annette Rassmussen and they have three children. Denise, a teacher is married to Harry Beckering, and has a son and a daughter. Randal attended university for a year and is now at N.A.I.T. studying electronics. Colin also attends N.A.I.T. taking electronics. They help Denis with the farming when out of school.

Duane's story is elsewhere in the book.

Terrence attended Gladstone and Bawlf schools and also chose farming as his occupation. He married Beverly Paulson in 1972, and they have four children, Rebecca, Fraser and twin daughters, Allison and Amber.

All our sons have a good knowledge in the business of farming, and do most of their own welding, building, plumbing and electrical work. All have their own farms and homes and have made many improvements to them.

Sandra attended Gladstone and Bawlf schools, and the U of A. where she graduated as a dental hygienist. She married Warren Watson in 1969 and they have two children, Tara Lee and Tyler. They live in Edmonton where Warren has his own locksmith business. Prior to this he was employed at I.T.T. Grinnel and at Trans Am.

Alice and I were honored on our 25th wedding anniversary by the community, relatives and friends in the Bawlf Hall in 1961. We enjoy travelling and over the years have taken quite a few trips including Expo in Montreal, Disneyland, San Francisco, and Grand Canyon and Las Vegas.

I have sold the home quarter to Terrence. Alice and I live in a mobile home in the same yard as Terrence and his family. I am doing less work, but still manage to keep busy, and am enjoying our eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Huseby, Duane Family

by Audrey Huseby

Duane, the second son of Alice and Conrad, was born in 1940. He took his early schooling at Palmer and Gladstone schools. He completed grade nine in Ryley and then went to Bawlf. Upon leaving school in 1956 he started farming with his father.

Duane and I (the former Audrey Armstrong) were married in 1959. I lived in Edson, Alberta until I completed Grade 10. My family then moved to Fort Saskatchewan where I completed my schooling. After a year at business college, I worked in the Personnel Office at Sherritt Gordon Mines. In 1958, I moved to Camrose to work as a stenographer for the School Division, then for the Royal Bank until my marriage to Duane.

The next eight years were spent on the farm of Duane's parents. In the spring of 1967 we bought the original home place from Grandpa Hans. Grandpa made his home with us for three years then moved to the Bethany Home in Camrose where he passed away in 1973 at the age of 95 years.

We have two children, Wesley James, born in 1964 and Jodi Jane born in 1967. Wes completed his grade twelve at Bawlf this year. He has been accepted

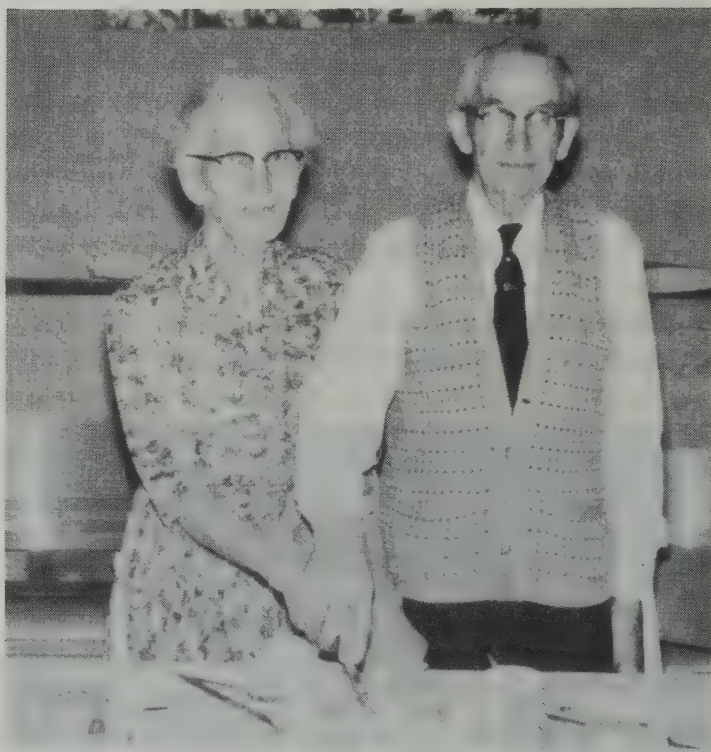
at NAIT this fall and will farm with his father when he completes his education. Our daughter is in grade ten this year.

Our family is a member of the Gladstone Community and enjoy curling there and in the surrounding communities each winter.

Huseby, Hans

by Conrad Huseby

Hans Olsen Huseby was born in 1878 at Valer Moss, Norway. Both of his parents had passed away when he was seven years old, so he was brought up by a family by the name of Tunby, at Spedeberg. He took his schooling in Norway, and also his military training. Then for seven years he managed a farm, called the Huseby farm, for a widow and her young son Alf Hoff. As he had worked at the farm, he added "Huseby" to Hans Olsen, a practise in those days. His foster parents, the Tunbys, had relatives in the United States, so he decided to immigrate to America. He arrived in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1903. He had two brothers and one sister, Karolina Hansen, who lived in New York.



Hans and Anna Huseby.

In the autumn of 1904, he came to Wetaskiwin and from there to the Earling area, which was later known as the Palmer School district. The homestead that he liked had already been bought by a man named Laboucane, who wanted to sell. Hans O. Huseby bought the NW 30-47-16, for \$20.00 but we still refer to it as the homestead.

The first home was made of logs, with a sod roof. Lumber additions were constructed later. Most of the other farm buildings were of log and sod construction also, with some lumber additions. The well was dug by hand and corrals were made of rails.

Anna Marie Andresen was born in 1883, at Yarlberg, Tonsberg, Norway. Her parents were Nellie and Hans Andresen. From 1896 to 1921, her father was the director of Animal Husbandry at the Fosness Agriculture College. Her mother taught the practical side of home economics. Anna took courses in sewing, curing meats, breadbaking and butter-making. These arts were of great value in those days. Hans and Anna had become acquainted in Norway. Anna came to Wetaskiwin and then to the Earling-Palmer district in 1905. She had three sisters and a brother.

Hans Huseby and Anna Andresen were married in Wetaskiwin in 1906, and to them five children were born: Henry in 1906, Lillian, born in 1908, married to Alf Lefsrud and they lived in Victoria, B.C. They have one son, Harold. Conrad's story is elsewhere in the book. Evelyn was born in 1920 and married Arnold Wagner. They live in Edmonton. Irene, born in 1922 married Paddy Francouer and lives in Camrose. Their children are, Raymond, James, Gregory, Brian and Louise. One son, Jeffery passed away at an early age.

The Huseby children attended Palmer School.

Henry then went to the Camrose Lutheran College and Camrose Normal School. He was a teacher for nineteen years before he became engaged in farming. Lillian, Evelyn and Irene furthered their education at the Camrose Lutheran College.

Anna, carded a great deal of wool over the years, and knitted many pairs of stockings and mittens for the family.

In the pioneer days, muskrats, weasels, coyotes and badgers were trapped and sold to supplement the family income. Hans also worked on the railroad for a while. As more land was broke, grain, livestock and poultry products helped pay the bills.

In 1915 plans were made for a new farm site. A well was drilled by George Hovland, and a windmill was put in place. Then a barn and a fine new home, complete with full basement were built, followed by other outbuildings. For this two carloads of first grade fir lumber were ordered through a lumber company and shipped from British Columbia to Holden, then hauled to the farm with horses and wagons. The carpenters were Alfred Olsen and Mr. Sundquist, and the plasterer was Mr. Bostrome. Hans and Henry helped, as was the custom in pioneer days. The home was finished and furnished in 1916 and the family moved into it. In the early thirties a good number of spruce and Russian poplar were planted which provided good shelter as well as beauty.



L. to R.: Leonard Johnson, Conrad Huseby, Margaret Johnson, Elios Johnson, Linea Johnson, Henry, Evelyn, Irene, Lillian and Mrs. Hans Huseby in 1923. The vehicle is a Chevrolet livery truck with three passenger seats.

In the early days, all the farming was done with horses. Grain was hauled with sleigh and grain box and also a tank drawn by four horses. Many tons of hay was put up each year with the help of the family and some hired help.

Holden was the Huseby's principal town of business and shopping for many years. Many stores, garages, grain elevators, blacksmiths and bank were patronized. Cream was hauled to the Holden Creamery, with neighbors exchanging pickup sometimes. Later Percy Owens and then Martin Meadahl had a cream delivery service. Cattle and hogs were hauled to the Holden stockyards in the earlier years. Some were sold to local buyers and other shipped to Edmonton. One particular time, Hans and Jim and Tom Courtney, with the help of others, herded 67 head of cattle to Holden which made up three carloads, which were shipped to Weiller and Williams in Edmonton. Dr. Farrell was the family's doctor and Holden has been the mailing address since about 1910. Later Rural Route 1 was established and Bert Taylor was one of the mail carriers who delivered mail with horse and cutter during the winter time.

Rural telephone lines were installed in about 1924 and in 1950 the Hampton R.E.A. was formed and power was brought into this area. This brought many conveniences and added to the comfort of rural homes.

Hans bought many quarters of land over the years and farmed many of them with the help of his family and hired help. Chris Afseth had one of the first steam engines and threshing separators in this area, and threshed for Hans for a few years. Then by 1917, more land was under cultivation, so Hans bought his own threshing outfit, a 25-75 Case steam engine and 32-54 inch size Case steel separator and established a custom threshing route. Then in 1922 or 1923 Hans sold this threshing outfit to John Bruce and Andrew McWhirter. In 1923 Hans bought a Rumley 20-40 oil pull tractor and 32-52 steel separator and continued threshing for himself and some of the neighbors. Then in 1937 he bought an L-Case tractor for \$1,475.00 and traded the Rumley separator off for a Red River Special 32-56. Henry and Conrad farmed the Huseby land together for a while and then each bought a combine.

Most of the land was broke with the use of tractors. Hans, Henry and Conrad doing the work themselves, or had it hired, but Sigurd Burnstad broke 80 acres with the horses one summer. Martin Meadahl, who had done some hauling for the Husebys, sold his truck, so Hans bought one of his own, a 1942 Dodge three ton. He had to have a permit, proof of necessity and have a P.S.V. license. This truck was kept busy

hauling cattle, hogs and grain to markets for many years.

Hans speculated on the futures in grain and commodity markets and also bought shares in gas and oil and mining resources. He experienced profits as well as losses. One transaction allowed him to buy a 1947 Cadillac car for \$6,500.00.

He was a member of the Alberta Seed Growers for a while and cleaned, sacked, sealed and sold certified seed. In 1938 he received an order from a grain company for three or four carloads of Thatcher wheat. Bad weather, drifted roads and a sudden spring break-up prevented the hauling of the grain to meet the deadline, so the sale which could have been profitable, failed. He then sold much of it locally.

Hans was dedicated to help with the building of a fine progressive community. He was a school trustee for many years and a long time member of the board that helped build the Zion Church. For fifty years he was a board member of the Holden Drainage District No. 1, and for his services received a commemorative award from the Provincial Resources Branch. He received recognition for furthering the work of the Cancer Society and Canadian Red Cross, and was a member of the Holden Health Unit. He received plaques from the United Grain Growers and the Alberta Wheat Pool. He bought shares in the Scandinavian Centre in Edmonton, and was a charter member of the Ronning Lodge in Camrose.

His wife Anna and their family contributed to his success. Anna was president of the Zion Ladies aid for eighteen years and a member of the Palmer Red Cross which was very active during the war. Some of the school teachers roomed and boarded at the Huseby home.

Hans and Anna with their three children Henry, Lillian and Conrad made their first trip back to their homeland in 1914, travelling by train to New York and by boat to Norway. They made three other trips to Norway by boat in 1951, 1953 and 1957. They also drove to New York to visit his sister and Anna's brother.

In 1956 Hans and Anna celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. In 1961 they visited Norway again, going by aircraft. In 1967, at the age of 89, Hans, in the company of Lillian and Alf Lefsrud and Conrad and Alice, attended Expo in Montreal, and his last trip to Norway was made in 1969.

Anna lived on the farm for 58 years and Hans for 67 years. Hans was an enterprising farmer and a good businessman. Anna was an enthusiastic worker and a good homemaker. They were predeceased by their daughter Evelyn in 1956. She worked at main office of the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Anna passed away in 1963 and son Henry, in 1966.

Mrs. Evelyn Huseby stayed with Hans on the farm for a few months. She then moved to Daysland with her children; Brenda, Murray and Dale.

Duane and Audrey Huseby bought the Hans Huseby farm in 1967. Hans lived with them for three years, and then moved to the Bethany Home in Camrose, where he passed away in 1973 at the age of 95.

Hviid, Niels and Harriet

Niels Hviid was born in Denmark where he received his education. He came to Calgary and worked for the Southern Alberta Dairy Pool. Then he moved to Alix and worked for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, where he graded cream.

Harriet Stone was born on a farm near Alix and got her public school education there. She went to Calgary to board with an aunt. She attended Crescent Heights High School when William Aberhart was principal. This was followed by Normal School. She taught in several schools.

Niels and Harriet were married in 1934. Later they moved to Valhalla Center, where Niels managed the creamery. They had a daughter Maxine.

Eventually they moved to Holden, where for eighteen years he was the creamery manager. Maxine got all her education in Holden. Harriet taught school there for quite a few years until her health failed.

Maxine is married to Brian O'Driscoll. They have two daughters, Theresa and Maureen and reside in Prince George, B.C.

When Niels retired, Harriet and he moved back to Alix where they still live.

Hyslop, Family **by James Hyslop**

Before moving to Holden, Alberta, we lived on a farm about two miles east of London, Ontario. In mid-summer, 1916, my father passed away and my mother became a widow with seven fatherless children to care for.

That winter she visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Phillips, at their farm about three miles north of Holden, Alberta. It was then that a decision was tentatively made to move to Holden.

In October of 1917, we arrived in Holden. Mother, Mary Elizabeth Hyslop and seven children, Alex, William, Bessie, Peggy, George, James and Jean, the family in order of their ages.

A short while before leaving London, sister Peggy was married to Ted Beattie. Ted and Bill Hyslop made the trip west along with a carload of settlers' effects which included household furniture, some machinery, a team of horses and about five head of



Hyslop family. Back Row: Alex, William, George, Jim. Front Row: Bessie, Peggy, Jean and Mother.

cattle and a dog. They rode in the boxcar in order to take care of the livestock; feeding and taking on water in barrels filled at divisional points where the train would stop for short periods.

We moved on to what was known at that time as the Fisk farm, located about five miles north of Holden. Sister Jean and I, "Jim" attended the rest of our school years at Holmdene school. We settled down to adjusting our lives to living in Alberta.

Alex enlisted in the army and was soon sent overseas into combat. He also spent some time in the occupation of Germany after the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918. After returning, he bought the Fisk farm through the Soldiers' Settlement Board and farmed for a couple of years. He also worked around Holden before moving to British Columbia where he did some gold prospecting in the North. He then lived in Abbotsford and New Westminster working as a carpenter and painter. He passed away May 7, 1969.

Mother married Thomas Bishop in 1920 and lived on their farm until 1930 when they moved to Abbotsford, B.C. where she had a small dairy and chicken farm. Mother passed away December 8, 1968.

Bill settled on a farm about five miles northwest of Holden. He later moved to Bonnyville, Alberta and farmed there, was married there and later moved to Aldergrove, B.C. They had two boys, James and Albert, and have lived in the Abbotsford area ever since.

Bessie married Frank Andrews in 1919. They lived in the Holden area a few years and then moved to Oregon where they raised a large family. Frank

passed away a few years ago. Bessie is living at this time on a small farm a few miles from Vancouver, Washington.

Ted Beattie and sister Peggy lived around the Holden area for a few years. Ted worked on the William McVittie farm and other places. They had a son Norman while at Holden. They moved back to London, Ontario in the mid 20's where they had three daughters. They lost their son Norman at the age of 17 years. Ted passed away a few years ago. Peggy is now living in London near her children and grandchildren.

George worked on several farms in the Holden area then moved to Abbotsford, B.C. in 1931. George married in Abbotsford and lost his wife a few years later. He remarried in 1957. He and his wife Gertrude live in Abbotsford, B.C.

I, Jim, worked on some farms in the Holden area. I also worked for A. K. James I.H.C.; G.M. Dealer in Holden; the Holden Creamery when Bob Newell was the manager and on the J. D. McAllister farm at Mundare operating power machinery.

Sister Jean and I and my fiancée, Ida Maaren of the Ryley area, moved to Abbotsford, B.C. in the fall of 1930. Ida and I were married in the fall of 1932. We have two children, Don, born in 1936, now living in Edmonton with his family and Marilyn, born in 1941, now living in West Vancouver.

I worked in B.C. in the garage business for some time and 18 years for the B.C. Government. I retired in April, 1970 and am now living in Abbotsford, B.C.

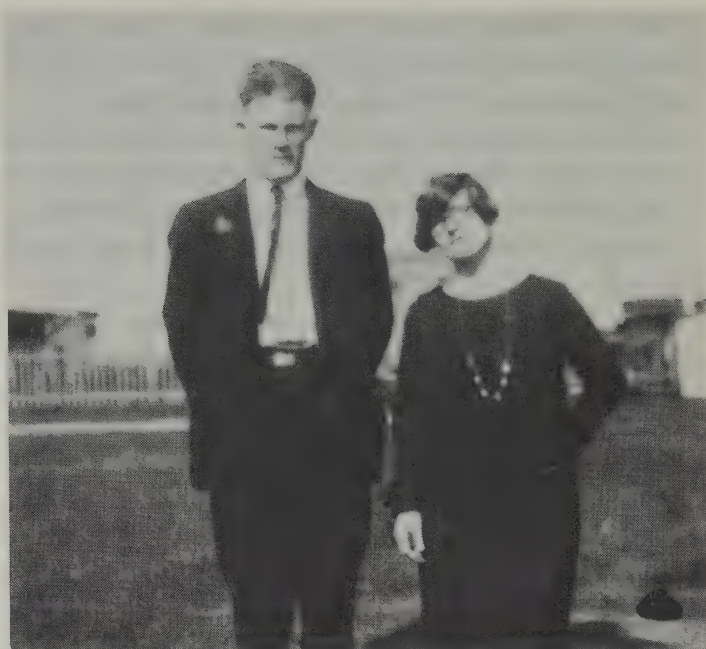
Jean worked on the farm in Abbotsford with mother and married Alex Birnie in the mid 30's. They had two children, Sandy and Mary. Alex worked at Vancouver, Nelson and Ottawa. They are now living in Langley, B.C. after retirement.

Jack, John William

John Jack was born in 1906 in England. He came to Canada as a small child and grew up on the family homestead near Clyde, Alberta. John married Jane Rae Sterling of Westlock in 1927. They had one daughter, Olive.

The family came to Poe in 1930 from Irma, Alberta to work for the Northern Grain Company. They lived above the J. Bracegirdle store for a short time before moving to a small house across the road from the John E. Roberts farm. Rae died in early 1931.

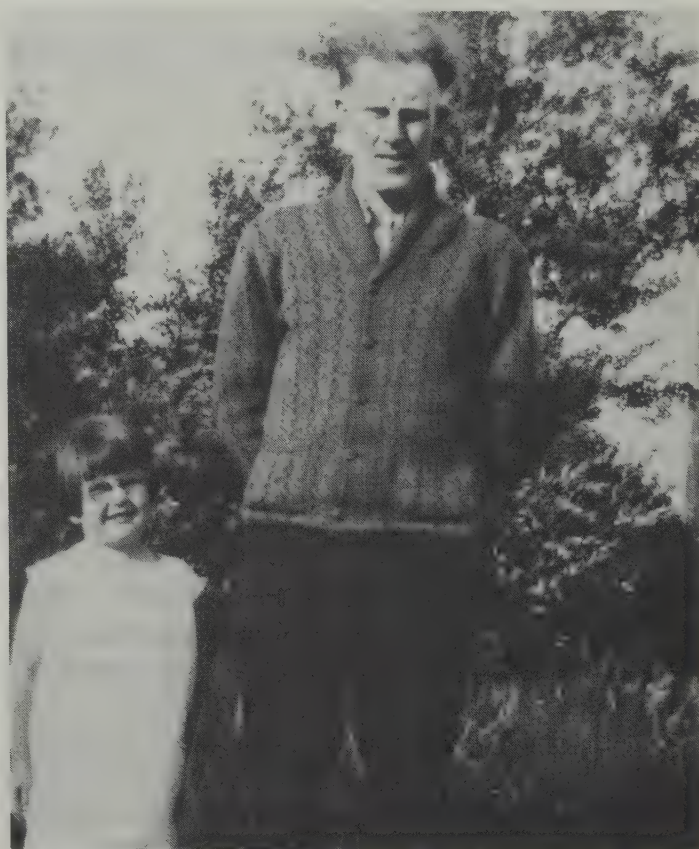
In late 1931 the family moved to Holden and lived in a house next door to the telephone office where Mrs. Forsyth and her daughter Merle lived. Mrs. Forsyth played the piano and used to sing Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees". The Liden's lived next door



John and Rae Jack.

to them. Audre used to come over to play with Olive often. The house was lit with natural gas lights.

In late 1932 they moved to Poe, living in the elevator company house across the tracks. The gas company man used to walk with snowshoes along the gas line from Edmonton to Viking checking for leaks in the winter time. He often stopped for a meal and to get warm. The "bums" who rode the trains, asked for food when the trains stopped on the siding.



John and daughter Olive.

Dances were held at Forgan's house. All the living and dining room furniture was moved out on the front porch and music was supplied by a gramophone. Babies and small children slept among the coats on the bed behind the kitchen. Christmas concerts and dances were held at Poe School. Desks were piled up against the wall and the babies slept on the seats. The whole family came, no baby sitters in those days.

Dr. MacPherson of Ryley doubled as doctor and dentist in those days. The John E. Roberts family was very kind to our family, Marnie and Bryn were like an older brother and sister to Olive. Frances Fawcett, later Mrs. Alfred Schultz of Tofield and Elsie Kennedy kept house for the family in both Holden and Poe. Olive started school at Poe with Stella (McCutcheon) Sorenson as her first teacher. John died in early 1936 and Olive went to live in Irma with Ernie and Doris Simmons.

Olive graduated as a nurse from the Lamont Public Hospital. She married Edward Sweeten and they have three children, Ted, Jack and Alison. She is still nursing on a part time basis, and lives in Port Alberni, B.C.

Jacobsen, T. P. and Family by Ruth Thomassen

Theodore Jacobsen was born in Bodo, Norway, in 1889, and as a young man immigrated to Everett, Wash., U.S.A. where he received his formal education in the Bethania Lutheran College.

Sigrid Loberg also arrived in the Everett area along with her sister Berit and father P. N. Loberg from Trondhiem, Norway sometime later. She became the cook in that same college where their paths soon crossed culminating in their engagement. Mr. Jacobsen, meanwhile, worked at various jobs in Washington State but he was soon to hear tidings from across the border, in Canada, of C.P.R. lands being offered at an irresistible price. This promoted him to leave the Everett area arriving in the Sandstorm school district, in Alberta, in 1914, to what was known as the "Colony". This colony was made up of others like himself who had left the U.S. group to settle in Canada.

He acquired three quarters of land in section three bounded by the correction line to the south and the Holden-Daysland line to the east. Here he had a house built for his bride-to-be as well as a barn and other buildings.

Sigrid and Berit arrived a short time later and they were married in a double-wedding ceremony in 1914, at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Loberg. Berit married Nels Sommers who had also built a house for his bride, two miles north.



Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Jacobson, taken in 1939 on their 25th Anniversary.

Mr. Jacobsen was a hard worker and eventually saw the land broken and the farm take shape with cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. His wife, Sigrid, had at times a deep longing to be back in her native Norway especially when she was left alone at nights and heard the coyotes howling just outside the door. They soon acquired a dog, however, and he kept the coyotes at their distance. Her feelings of loneliness and the bleakness all around her soon changed as her children began arriving. As time went by they were blessed with twelve children: Sylvan, Alman, Jacob, Mildred, Ruth, Borghild, Connie, Morris, Chester, Ingmar, Lydia and Judith. I was fifth in line having five brothers and five sisters. One little girl passed away at a young age. We all attended Sandstorm School, which was three and a half miles away, for our elementary education. Because of the severeness of the weather and the distance, father built us an enclosed sleigh and heating up stones for our feet so that we were able to endure the cold winters. Father served as a trustee on the school board for a number of years.

In the fall of 1923 our beautiful red barn burned to the ground. It was believed to have been caused by the carelessness of a transient who had slept over-

night in the hay loft. All the animals but one old boar were saved by the quick action of Mother's younger brothers, the Loberg boys, who, seeing the billows of smoke rising into the air from a distance, raced their horses to the burning barn to rescue the poor animals. All the stored grain, feed and hay was lost. Mr. Jacobsen, who was away at the time, returned home in the evening to find the barn in burning ruins. The next day Sylvan and Jake, rummaging through the still warm coals, stumbled on the hapless boar, cooked to a turn. There was a distinct odor of roast pork in the air. Some years later we were to experience another fire that burned our garage and car, almost costing Mr. Jacobsen his life.

There were difficult times through the depression years but we were grateful to always have enough to eat, thanks to the produce from the farm. Being a resourceful person, Mother was able to sew clothes and make over dresses for the girls so that we had sufficient to wear.

There were many times of happiness, too, as we celebrated Christmas in a truly Scandinavian fashion with lutefisk for supper on Christmas Eve, joining hands as we walked around the Christmas tree and singing the beautiful carols both in Norwegian and English, then opening our gifts which were small and simple but very much appreciated. Then, on Christmas morning, Mother would get up early while the family slept on to prepare all her delicious specialties. Coming to each bed with a cheery "Gladelig Jul!" she would wake us up to enjoy our Christmas breakfast in bed. Later in the week we would have our Sunday School Christmas program in either our home or the home of our friends, the Gabrielsons, where we would sing or recite our pieces. These were some of the joys of our childhood.



Mrs. Sigrid Jacobson and her family with their spouses in 1980. (Absent Alma and Jake)

There are many things for which we are grateful in our upbringing. We learned to work hard and to take responsibility at an early age as well as get along in a large family. But most important was the spiritual guidance our parents gave us. The Bible was read regularly in our home and the rod of correction was administered when needed which seemed to be quite often. This was to prove very beneficial in our lives as we grew up and took our places in the world.

As the years passed, Mr. Jacobsen felt the need to augment the family's income and heeding the call of the sea and of fishing which he had known in his youth, went to the west coast in 1935 to pursue this trade. Mother was left to run the farm with the help of the older boys in the family. During the fall and winter months Dad would return to Alberta where he embarked on another venture of selling fish from house to house throughout the area. He became acquainted with many people and was well received for supplying such a good variety of fish. The fish was frozen and shipped to Alberta by the Canadian Fish Co. of Vancouver, B.C.

In 1942 Mother elected to move to Daysland to be nearer the high school there in order to further educate the younger members of the family. Sylvan and Gunner Lovely took care of the farm in the meantime while others of the family dispersed to various other locations for schooling and work, etc. Mother returned to the farm again but only enough to prepare for the sale of it. In 1944 the family moved to Camrose where they lived till 1950. Mother then made her last move to Vancouver where she is still living at the grand age of 90. Mr. Jacobsen carried on fishing till his death in 1960 at the age of 71.

Sylvan became a machinist and welder during the war. He lived in Edmonton, until he became a victim of multiple sclerosis. This eventually brought him to Vancouver where he resides with Mother and receives a disability pension.

Alma attended high school in Camrose and went on to Prairie Bible Institute for two years. She lived in Ontario for a number of years before coming to Vancouver where she married Carl Paulgaard. She has one daughter, Patricia, who also lives in Vancouver.

Jake became a Flying Officer in the Canadian Air Force during the war. After the war he attended the University of B.C. where he graduated with a degree in Forestry. He worked for the B.C. Government for a number of years as a Forestry Engineer before transferring to the Federal Government in Ottawa where he was employed till his early retirement in 1978. His wife, Joyce, is still employed by the Federal Government. They have two children; Donald and Valerie.

Mildred spent only a part of a year at Sandstorm School due to ill health and at the age of six, spinal meningitis took her life.

Ruth attended C.L.B.I. in Camrose for several semesters before going on to Prairie Bible Institute. In 1943 she went to Vancouver where she worked in the Inspection Dept, of the Boeing Aircraft Co. till the end of the war. She married Rolf Thomassen in 1945. Rolf is an administrator with the Greater Vancouver Regional District where he also acts as office pilot. He has been employed there for thirty one years. Ruth is a draftsman for the District of North Vancouver where she has been employed for the past twenty years. They have four children: Wayne, Orin, Darrel and Carolee.

Borghild enjoyed arithmetic in school and later took honors in bookkeeping and stenography. She graduated from Prairie Bible Institute and served on the mission fields of Nigeria and West Africa for twenty years. Since returning home she does bookkeeping in Vancouver as well as caring for our mother. She is very active in youth and children's work in her church.

Connie was interested in biological science and became a nurse in Calgary. She married Jim Foster and they have two children: Valerie and Bob. Connie reached the administrative level in nursing and after many years in Calgary moved to Drumheller where she now resides with Jim while carrying on her work there.

Morris finished high school at P.B.I. and went on to take the missionary training course which eventually brought him to Japan. There he met and married Kathleen Inninger. They had five children: Wesley, Sharon, Joanne, Shirley and Marcia. Little Marcia drowned when she was two and a half years old. While raising their family they both furthered their education, Kathleen with a B.A. and Morris obtaining a Ph. D. in adult education. For two years Morris served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Fort Wayne Bible College, Indiana. In 1978 Kathleen died of cancer after many years of Christian service. Later, Morris married Betty Osmundsen, also of Japan, where they are presently carrying on their work. Morris' three daughters were married in a triple-wedding ceremony in 1979 in Chicago.

Chester has followed a career in sales since his early days in Camrose. There he met and married Joyce DeForest. They had five children: Rodney, Judy, Garth, Darcy and Sandra. Rodney lost his life at the age of seventeen, when hit by a car in Calgary. Chester joined the Hudson's Bay Co. early in his career serving in Edmonton and Saskatoon and now manager of the Hudson's Bay Warehouse store in Calgary.

Ingmar also attended Prairie Bible Institute going into full time ministry in the Evangelical Free Churches of America. He married Vivian Hansen of Enchant in 1956 and they have a family of four: Trudy, Diane, Kenneth and Brent. Ingmar has pastored churches in B.C. Alberta and California and has recently returned to Canada as Executive Officer in Church Planning in the Pacific Region of B.C.

Lydia entered Bob Jones University in South Carolina after graduating from Prairie High School. She majored in Education as well as Bible and later married George Galstad also of B.J.U. Their family consists of son Daniel and daughters Michele and Gretchen. They make their home in Seattle where Lydia now sells real estate.

Judy chose Seattle Pacific College for further studies after graduating from Prairie as did her husband Herb. The Zimmermans have a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Ted. After many years with Wycliffe Bible Translators, serving at Point Barrow, Alaska and Yellowknife, N.W.T., the Zimmermans have created the written form of the Dogrib Indian Language as well as translating portions of the New Testament for them. They have made their home in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

We still get together occasionally as a family, to re-live and laugh at the happy times we had on the farm.

Jacobson, John

John Jacobson was an early pioneer of Adams District. He was an uncle of Ingebrigt Kjosness and lived on the place to the north of the Kjosness farm. He is remembered by his grand-nieces and grand-nephews especially for making them skis, and his wife Lillie is remembered for her delicious white layer cakes with brown sugar icing.



Lillie and John Jacobson.

Jacobson, Olavus by Lyle Grosland

Olavus Jacobson and his wife Olivia came to Canada from the United States in 1901. They brought with them their four children, namely, Lillie, Nels, Albert and Olga. His mother, who was known to everyone as "Besta" Jacobson, also came with them. She was an excellent midwife and somewhat of a doctor to all in the early 1900's. In 1903, Jacob was born and in 1906, he died. The family homesteaded on Section NE 34-49-15.

When Olavus first came, he did quite a lot of breaking of new land with oxen. He enjoyed driving the oxen and could handle them without lines. He had them well trained to his commands of "Gee and Haw". Of course, he had his usual trouble if the heel flies were bad. The oxen would head to the nearest slough and stay there until they thought it was safe to come out.

Lillie Jacobson married Arne Grosland in 1907. She told many stories of her early life in Canada. When the family came up to Wetaskiwin from Calgary, the railroad bed was so soft that all the passengers had to get out of the train and walk. The train had to go so slow that the children threw rocks and played games as they went along.

She also told that she, along with one of the Kjosness boys, chased 100 head of cattle on horseback, for Pete Kjosness from Wetaskiwin to the Martins area northeast of Holden. They didn't really know the way but they finally made it despite the hordes of mosquitoes.

Jakubow, Peter and Family

We came to Canada in 1949 from England and settled in Thorsby, Alberta. We were fortunate to secure employment right away, I at a welding shop and my wife as a clerk at a general store. Life was good and we could save a few dollars. In 1952 our employers both sold their businesses. My wife's employers bought a hotel in Olds. They offered us employment in the hotel so we moved to Olds. A year later I found a welding job in Red Deer — so we moved again. I worked long hours mostly out at the oil rigs and pipelines. Two winters I went to the vocational school in Calgary and received a first class ticket in gas and electric welding.

In 1954 our daughter Elizabeth was born, a happy beautiful Sunday for us. 1955 was another happy year — we became Canadian Citizens. I also had good news from Poland — that my two sons were alive in the Ukraine. At that time the borders were closed.



A group of settlers on the Olavus Jacobson homestead.



Jakubow Family: Standing: Roman, Elizabeth and Steven. Seated: Peter, John and Mary.

The boys had an aunt in Poland. At that time the Polish Government had a new policy — to reunite the families that had been separated during the war. Auntie went to the Ukraine at our request and got the boys to Poland. We applied right away for their emigration papers. It took the Polish Government two years to let them out of Poland.

My ambition had been to start my own business. In 1958 I read an ad in the Edmonton Journal written by the Holden Chamber of Commerce stating that a welder was needed to serve their community. A visit was arranged. Cliff Foran gave us the “Grand Tour” of Holden — which took a few minutes, introduced us to Mayor John Blake. We were treated to a nice dinner, and were shown buildings suitable for a shop. We liked the small place. I rented a building from Mrs. (Logan) Chetney and began operating the business in April. My family stayed in Red Deer. The boys arrived from Poland in June 1958. We sold our house and moved to Holden in July. We rented Harry Michlich’s house till December when we moved to the farm we had bought from Metro Roshko. The neighbors, the people of Holden and all my customers from far and wide were great. They made us feel at home from the very beginning. A big thank you to all of them. We will always remember Mrs. B. Campbell, M. Zowtuk, P. Kowalchuk, Farynas, Howrishes, Bilyks, R. Mason and so many more. Also a special big “thank you” to Mrs. Pearl Allan for giving the boys English lessons after school hours. They did not know a word of English when they arrived from Europe.

In the fall of 1958 the boys enrolled in Holden School, Roman in Grade 8 and Steven in Grade 7. Roman graduated from high school in 1961 with honors. In September he went to Royal Military College — Royal Roads, B.C. for two years then to

R.M.C. Kingston. At graduation he was presented with a gold medal for academic achievements by the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. Roman also had the honour of attaining the highest marks ever recorded in the 99 year history of R.M.C. Kingston. He was also awarded the Governor General’s gold medal as well as numerous departmental prizes and fellowships. Roman also achieved his Master’s and Doctor’s degrees. He is still in the C.A. Forces with the rank of colonel and lives in Ottawa. Steven graduated from Holden High in 1963 with honors. He went to R.M.C. Royal Roads and Kingston. He received his B.A. in Mechanical Engineering and Lieutenant of Signals. He studied computer engineering. He attained rank of Captain and left the army after five years service. At present he is employed by the government in Ottawa.

John was born in 1961 at Vegreville. He finished school in Vernon, B.C. in 1979. In the fall he was accepted at Royal Roads but did not get in for pilot training, so left after one year. At present he is studying to become a commercial pilot at Mount Royal in Calgary. Our daughter Elizabeth finished high school in Richmond, B.C., studied modeling in Vancouver, then did modeling in New York where she is now studying medical technology.

We moved to Richmond in 1969, and after three years moved to Vernon, a beautiful place with friendly people. I worked for the school district as a welder until I retired in ’79. My wife is still working part time at The Bay.

James, Arthur Kenneth and Mary Anne

Arthur K. James immigrated to Canada in 1906, settling first in Edmonton. In 1908 he homesteaded north east of Bruce and farmed there until 1912, when he moved to Holden and opened a butcher shop in partnership with Charlie Longmate. They later started an implement and car agency. In 1921 A. K. James purchased Charlie Longmate’s shares, sold the



Business premises of A. K. James. Mechanic and A. K. James.

butcher business and continued with cars and implements. He handled McCormick Deering implements and Chevrolet cars and trucks until 1930, when he sold the business and started farming on the land just east of the Holden boundaries which belonged to Dr. Farrell. The depression was more than the new owners could cope with and he was forced to take back the business in 1932. He continued in the A. K. James garage until his death in 1957 at the age of 69.

In 1920 Mary Anne Cambridge immigrated to Canada after World War I to marry Kenny James. They were married December 12, 1922 in Edmonton. They had two children, Arthur Gough born January 1, 1924, and Margaret Irene born January 29, 1926. Mary James was a veteran of the 1st World War and a very active member in the Canadian Legion, being made a life member. She was also active in the United Church and the Women's Auxiliary to the United Church. Mary Anne James passed away at the age of 82 in Viking.

Arthur and Margaret completed their schooling in Holden. Arthur served in the R.C.A.F. in 1943-1946, returning to Holden in 1946 for a year before moving to Vancouver, where he was employed by Black Motors and Curtis Motors. In 1950 he went into the machine business. In 1948 he married Norma Gulliver of Vancouver. They had four children, one daughter Carol, and three sons, Donald, Bryan and Robert. The children are all actively employed with their father in James International Truck and Tractor Ltd.

Margaret married Peter Sandeman-Allen of Victoria in 1949. They had four children, Susan with the B.C. guiding Association in Prince George. Glen and Grant with B.C. Tel on Vancouver Is., and Scott of Vancouver in Electronics.

Jensen Family

The L. P. Jensen family came to the Holden district in 1916. A C.P.R. salesman recruited settlers for Holden, telling them of the excellent opportunities in this area. They moved to Section 3-48-16-W4, eight miles south and one mile west of Holden. They enjoyed farming on the C.P.R. land and quickly grew fond of the kind people.

Their children are Peter, Nels, Hoffer, Thorvald, Alvin, Christina, Dorothy and Hellene. After living in Holden for eight years, the family moved to Camrose and then on to Everett, Washington, with the exception of Nels and Thorvald.

In 1927, Nels Jensen married Helen Bronnum of Kingman. They farmed in the Holden area for ten years, and then had an auction before moving to Everett. They have a family of five children, Loren, Carol, Arlene, Phyllis and Larry. The families of



Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Jensen and daughter Dorothy.



Hellene Jensen.



Thorvald and Alvin Jensen.



Nels and Helen Jensen with Loren, Carol and Arlene.

Arlene, Phyllis and Larry live in Everett. Loren is in Texas and Carol in Oregon.

Nels built frozen food lockers, a butcher shop, and a feed and seed store which he managed for ten years. After selling that he became the manager of Northwest Talc and Magnesium Co. for twenty years in Clear Lake, Washington. He retired in 1977. His hobbies were gardening, collecting rocks and beautifying his home with rock bulkheads. He was active in the Gideon Society and Temple Baptist Church for thirty years. In his last few years he was very involved in politics and the news of the White House. Nels passed away in 1981. Helen still resides in Everett with the rest of her family.

Jiry, George and Pauline

Pauline, daughter of Anton and Sophie Ogradnick spent her youth on a farm north of Holden. After her marriage to George Jiry, they resided in Stony Plain and Calgary before moving to Holden, where George operated a blacksmith shop for a short time. They left Holden and George held different jobs in Vegreville, Prince Rupert and Vancouver. After several years they returned to Holden, where they built a home, located about a block and a half east of the school. Here they spent the next seven years, during which time George worked at a local machinery dealership. Then they sold their home and purchased one in Edmonton, where they have lived ever since. During this time George was employed at the Namao Air Force Base, north of Edmonton, and Pauline



Mr. and Mrs. George Jiry and family.

worked at several part time jobs. They are now retired, but to keep busy George operates a small shop "Jirys' Self Service".

George and Pauline have five sons, Leonard, a professor at the University of Saskatoon. Ronald, a school principal, lives in Edmonton. Richard, at time of writing is unemployed. Dwayne and Thomas are both teachers, and live in Edmonton.

Job, John and Matilda by Irma (Job) Beger

John Job was born in 1899 in Kronthal, South Russia. Matilda (Mehlhoff) Job was born in 1902 in Neublumenthal, South Russia. John and Matilda immigrated to Canada with their two year old son, Ferdinand, leaving Russia in 1926 and arriving in St. John, New Brunswick in 1927. From here they started their long journey by train across Canada, arriving in Holden in 1927.

For about six months they lived with Mr. and



John and Matilda Job family 1940. Rupert, Irma, John, Ferdinand and Matilda and Edwin.

Mrs. August Miller. One year later they purchased an adjacent farm (¼ section of Canadian Pacific Railway land) and moved into an old two room shack. The first year the crop was very good, but the second year they were hailed out one hundred per cent. This was a very difficult year indeed.

The farm John purchased was completely covered with trees, which he chopped down single-handed with an axe during the winter months. He also worked for other farmers to earn extra money.

In 1938, John built a new large white siding house and subsequent buildings, which still stand. Later an addition was made to the house, with running water added. Electricity was brought in to modernize the farm in 1946. The first conveniences purchased were an electric washing machine and an electric stove for his wife, and an electric milking machine for himself.



50th Anniversary of John and Matilda. Standing: Ed, Irma and Rupert Job.

John was not only a farmer, but also a blacksmith, a trade he learned from his father in Russia. John sharpened plowshares for a lot of the surrounding farmers, which he did usually during the rainy days.

Sometime about 1929, John purchased a second-hand John Deere lug tractor, which served him for twenty-one years until 1950 when he purchased two rubber tired tractors. He broke all his new land and also land for the neighbors with this John Deere.

John purchased several parcels of land in the surrounding area and eventually farmed 1280 acres. Theirs was a mixed farm with chickens, ducks, geese, milking and beef cattle. This was home for

John and Matilda for thirty-seven years, until their retirement in 1964 to Kelowna, B.C. They moved to Edmonton in 1967.

John and Matilda have four children, Ferdinand, born in Russia, Rupert, born in Vegreville, Alberta, as were Edwin and Irma.

John and Matilda celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1973. John passed away in 1974, two days before their 51st wedding anniversary.

Ferdinand, the eldest son, not married, is a trucker in northern Alberta. Rupert and his wife Wally, have four children and live in Langley, B.C. He is a construction carpenter. Edwin and his wife Delores, have four children and live in White Rock, B.C. Edwin is also a construction carpenter. Irma, with her husband Con Beger and their three children, live on an acreage south of Sherwood Park, Alberta. Irma has been in banking full-time and part-time for many years.

Matilda Job moved to Langley, B.C. in 1978. She has eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jobber, John and Olga

John, son of Mike and Katie Jobber, was born south of Holden in 1910 in the Scona District. In 1935 he married Olga Mydlak, who was born in 1916 in the Kopernick District to John and Eva Mydlak.

They started farming in 1938 on NW 9-47-16 W4. In 1952 they purchased another quarter SE 17-47-16 and farmed until 1975 when they retired to Camrose. The land still remains in the family.

They had two children. Elsie was born in Camrose, attended Holden School and married Urbain Zak. They reside in Red Deer, where they own and operate Zak Agencies. Elsie, a pharmacy technician, works at Red Deer Hospital and has three children.

Irene, born in Daysland, attended Holden



John Jobber family.

School, is a stenographer for an insurance broker. She married Joe Faryna. They reside in Sherwood Park with their three children.

Johnson, Gustav and Paulina

Paulina M. Hoveland born in 1872 in Utsira, Norway, to Lars and Bertha Hoveland, came to America at an early age and settled in Newman Grove, Nebraska where she grew up. She married Gustave Johnson in 1899 in Calumet, Iowa where they had two children, Leonard Adolph born in 1900, and Beata Madeline born in 1903. They moved to Canada in 1904 where they homesteaded NW 24-47-17. They lived in a log house until they built a bigger home. They continued to farm on the homestead until retiring when Leonard took over. Beata moved to Sunnyside, Washington in 1924 where she worked for the telephone company. She married Harold R. Fike in 1926. They had three daughters, Beverly Jean born in 1930, Patsy Ann in 1933 and Janet Lee in 1935.

Leonard continued to farm the homestead until retiring in 1962, when he moved to Camrose. He passed away there on Christmas Day in 1980.

Johnson, Knudt and Family

It was in 1903, in Palmer, Washington, that Knudt Johnson got the urge to come to Alberta for the \$10.00 a quarter for land. He, together with his wife Margit, her mother Aase Sanderson, their son Sam, and daughter Clara came by rail to Wetaskiwin which was the end of the steel. From here they came fifty miles north east and settled on SW 36-47-17-W4, and Grandma Sanderson took up a homestead on the

NE 26-47-17-W4. It would take them a week to make the trip to Wetaskiwin with oxen. In the winter they trapped muskrats which sold for 10¢ a skin. Sam had a wagon box full of them, that bought a new mower and hay rake. The first two years they lived in a sod house. Then they hauled logs from Beaver Hills and built a house and granary. Sam took up a homestead three miles from there on NW 6-48-16-W4. In 1915 he married Ragnhild Moberg who had come over from Sweden three years earlier. They had two children Harry and Harriet (Dolly).

Harry married Julia Fischer in 1940. They have three children, Larry who married Noreen Campbell has two children Wayne and Lavern. Harry and Larry have been in the service station business since 1970, with Larry being the qualified mechanic. Valerie is married to Dale Howard from Provost. They have two children, Sean and Kimberlei Jane. Valerie teaches Psychology in a Medicine Hat college. Dale also teaches. Rodney, who has his Master's in Political Science lives in Charleston, Illinois.

Ragnhild, her twin sister Gunhild (Mrs. Robert Webb), Linnea (Mrs. Olaf Larson), brother Hugo Moberg, and their mother came to Holden from Sweden in 1912. They had their tickets for the Titanic but were unable to sail because Grandma Moberg got sick. The Titanic sank after colliding with an iceberg and carried 1600 passengers to a watery grave. A lucky escape!

Sam passed away in 1941 and Ragnhild married George Mohler in 1943. Dolly married James Trimble of Vegreville. They have seven children who live in different parts of B.C. Jim died in 1980. Their home is in Keremeos, B.C.



Sam and Ragnhild Johnson — wedding 1915.



Back Row: Sam, Ragnhild Johnson and Mrs. Chadwick. Front Row: Johnson and Chadwick children. Car — 1919 Grant.

Johnson, Tellof and John

In about 1916, Johnnie and Tellof Johnson bought a quarter of C.P.R. land (S.W. 5-48-16), put up some buildings to live in and broke some land. In about 1923 Johnnie married Christina Jensen and they moved to Everett, Washington to reside.

Tellof Johnson then married Dorothy Jensen and they farmed in the Holden district until about 1931 when they sold the farm and they too, moved to Everett. They had a family of two boys and two girls.



Mr. and Mrs. Tellof Johnson.

Jones, Charles R. and Lillian R.

Charles Jones and his wife Lillian (Davis) had one son, Wilfred, born in 1905 in Wales, prior to their move to the English Midlands. In about 1907 they moved to Ontario where Charles became mainte-

nance foreman at the Lake of the Woods Flour and Milling Co. Mrs. Jones's two sisters and Charlie's brother and their families also lived there. In the 1920's this family of relatives all moved to Vancouver.



Vern Jones, Wilfred Jones, Wm. Olson, Alice Jones and Ray Jones.

The prospect of farming in Alberta was eventually realized for Charlie Jones. They arrived in Holden in 1921 and settled a half mile east and two miles south of there.

It was here that the Jones family gave Linnea Johnson (Lena Jones) a home, at the age of eleven, following the death of her father Elias Johnson. She attended Vermillion Valley School until the family moved to the West Bruce school district. In 1936

when the Jones' family moved to Vancouver, Lena found work there and later married Eric Butterworth, a C.P.R. conductor, and moved to Medicine Hat. They have two daughters, Diane (Mrs. Jim Trieber) and Maureen, a nurse. They also have three grandsons.

It was about this time that Charlie Jones's brother, Fred rented the farm a half mile east of Holden and farmed it with his son Arthur (who later married and lived in Vancouver with his son Arthur Jr.). Fred also had a daughter, Ethel, who married and settled on Vancouver Island with her family. His older son, Ted, a carpenter, worked in Edmonton. He and his wife Anne had one daughter, Joyce. In 1934, Ted Jones built the barn on the William Olson place.

Besides farming Charlie Jones did various carpenter jobs around Holden. In 1935 he got the contract to build the Holden Community Hall. His son Wilfred and nephew Ted Jones, assisted in this project.

Wilfred Jones married Alice Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Olson in 1934. Their son Vernon was born in 1935. The Jones family moved to Richmond, B.C. in 1936. A second son, Raymond, was born in 1937.

During the depression Charlie was fortunate to get a school maintenance job on Lulu Island and later along with his son worked at jobs in the building trade. In 1949 they built and operated a store at White Rock, B.C.

The family moved to Penticton, B.C. in 1953. Charlie and Lillian passed away in Penticton in the early 1960's where they had retired.

Vernon married Marguerite Le Roy. They live in Swift Current, Saskatchewan and have two sons. Raymond married Sandy Mitchell. They live in Penticton and have four daughters.

Alice Jones became a widow in 1972 and makes her home in Edmonton, where she worked for the provincial government.

Josey, Peter and Mildred

I was born at Haight, chosen daughter of Melanie and Peter Kozak. They had come to Canada from the Ukraine in 1901, while it was under Austrian rule. They homesteaded along with the other brothers near Kingman. Later they sold out and bought a half section at Haight, where they lived until their passing. I attended the country schools of Thule and Togo. We had a good softball team then and usually came home with the first prize from the sports days and picnics.

I met and married Peter Josey of Edmonton in 1942 and we farmed the home place until 1959. Our neighbors at Haight were very close and helped each

other in time of need. We also had many enjoyable times at birthday and house parties for young and old when families would get together for fun.

I'll never forget the blizzard we had in March of 1951. It took Peter four hours to travel two and a half miles to bring the children home from Haight School. The men had to break up the drifts with shovels so that the snow plough could get through.

In 1960 we moved to Holden and were both employed by the County of Beaver as caretakers of Holden School. We bought the John Thieme home across from the school. Peter was always active in community affairs. He served as president of Borschiw Parish and also of Holden Parish. He was on the Farmers' Union executive, attending conventions in Calgary, Edmonton and Willingdon. He was a member of Holden Town Council for a short while. In school he was known as the "students' best friend".

We have three children and one foster son. Rick and Ken started school at Haight with Doris Ogradnick as their teacher. They finished their schooling in Holden. Rick lives in Edmonton and is a sales representative. Ken married Dianne Pitzel from Humbolt, Sask.; they live in Saskatoon. He, too, is a sales representative. Gail attended school in Holden and Alberta College. She married Doug. McCafferty, lives in Edmonton and has two children, Michael and Kelly. Howard attended school in Holden and Nait. He is a Federal Meat Inspector and lived in Edmonton.

I am still working at the school and still live in the same house. I keep busy doing handicrafts, looking after the house and yard, and enjoying my grandchildren.

Kachman, William and Pauline

William was born in 1904 in Starburn, Manitoba. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kachman. The



William Kachman family: William, Pauline, Jane, Lawrence, Art and Lloyd.

family moved to Youngstown, Alberta in 1909, where William gained his education. At the age of nineteen, he and his brother John left home to start a blacksmith shop at Inland. In 1927 William moved to Haight where he operated a blacksmith shop and a gas and oil sub-agency. During this time he met Pauline Augustynovich and married her in 1929. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Metro Augustynovich and comes from a family of seven. Born at Haight in 1908 she attended Myroslaw School. They moved to Holden in 1935 and from 1935 to 1940 William operated a blacksmith shop. Then, moving with the times, he became a licensed mechanic and a welder, and bought a garage. He sold gas and held a Cockshutt Agency, besides doing mechanical repairs etc.



Bill Kachman's blacksmith shop at Haight.

William and Pauline have a family of four children, Lawrence, Lloyd, Arthur and Jane all born in Holden area and attended Holden School.

Lawrence married Elizabeth Ozubko in 1955. They have three daughters, Carmen, Terry and



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kachman — Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Shelley. Lawrence operates a service station in Edmonton.

Lloyd married Eugenie Bilyk in 1956. They have four daughters, Janice, Lonee, Jayne and Lenell. Lloyd is the manager of the Royal Bank at Morinville.

Art married Anne Doolittle in 1961, and they have two sons William and Bradley. Art is a salesman for Adams Brands in Edmonton.

Jane has worked as an assistant mining recorder for Department of Mines and Minerals for seven years. She married Ken Warwick in 1970. They live in St. Albert with their two sons, Douglas and David.

Kalita, Steve (Kalyta, Stefan)

I, Steve, am the youngest son of Max and Mary Kalita. My formal schooling began in 1929 in Unity School, with Mr. Michael Clune as teacher — a very interesting fellow, probably best remembered for his discipline.

The thirties represented the depression — hard times or “Kriza”, a term used by my parents, and probably meaning crisis. The term and its meaning can be appreciated if one considers what the conditions may have been like in the “Old Country” that part of Europe which is today Eastern Poland. That must have contributed to their immigration to this part of the world in 1905. The subsequent experiences of trying to eke out a living in a strange land from the wilderness can only be imagined to have been the continuation of a long series of “Kriza”.

Numerous stories describing the difficulty of the times can be told and have left a lasting impression on the participants. I remember delivering milk to the local teacher. She was married, had two or three pre-school children and earned \$475.00 per year. This was \$47.50 per month for ten months and I often wondered what they did for July and August. We donated the milk of course and I received the odd dime for delivery.

Another incident involved the sale of some livestock. The cattle buyer from Holden arrived at the farm quite early in his Ford Model T convertible — no top. Several head were selected, some cows, steers and yearlings, and an offer of \$75.00 for the lot was made. This was turned down, and after a number of haggling sessions during the day, a deal was finally concluded at \$105.00 for seven head, an average price of \$15.00 per head. The price of steak? Who had steak?

My residence in the Kopernick district was rather brief, and the last experience at Unity School was practice teaching in 1941, after attending Daysland High School and Edmonton Normal School.

I married Leona Cote of St. Edouard, a "suburb" of St. Paul, Alberta, in 1943. We have two children.

Daughter Claudette de Bruijn, B.Sc., M.B.A. is married and is living in St. Albert. She is employed by the University of Alberta as an instructor.

Son Ronald Kalita, B.Sc., P.Eng. is also married and living in St. Albert, and is presently employed as a consultant.

I taught in Meldal and several other schools and served as vice-principal in the last three. Presently I am retired and live in St. Albert.

Kaluzny, Lawrence Family

Lawrence was the son of Albert and Katherine Kaluzny who immigrated to Canada from Poland in the early 1900's. They settled in the Bruce farming area and suffered many hardships as new settlers in a strange country. The family consisted of seven children, Annie (Mrs. John Evanchu), Joseph, Mary (Mrs. Peter Knudson), John, Reverend Michael, Lawrence (Rudolph) and Stephanie (Mrs. Dick Coutts). They all attended Rich School. All of the family are now deceased.

Lawrence married Nellie Sroka in 1946. Nellie is the daughter of Anton and Tekla Sroka of Holden. She had five brothers Joe, Mike, Sam, Victor and Louie. They all attended Polska School. After Lawrence and Nellie were married they took over his parents' farm south of Bruce. In 1949 their first child Veronica was born and in 1953 their son Reginald was born.

In 1956 the family left the farm and moved to Holden. The following year they purchased a lot from T. A. Liden and built the first prefabricated home in Holden. Lawrence's widowed father moved to town and lived with them until his passing in 1960. In 1959 the third and last child Joanne, was born.

Lawrence was employed by the C.N.R. until 1962 when he took the job as village foreman and maintenance man. The water lines in the village were extremely unreliable at the time, breaks were frequent and repairs had to be made in the most inclement weather and temperature conditions. After two winters new water lines were laid. Lawrence's job terminated in May 1965. After that he was employed at the National Grain Feed Mill, then as heavy equipment operator for Holmes Construction of Edmonton for a few years. Prior to his passing in 1976 he operated a grader for the County of Beaver. Over the years Lawrence did various types of work in his spare time. He operated the projector at the theatre for a time, did a lot of shoe repairing and being a jack of all trades was called upon to do small plumbing jobs and installation of appliances. Carpentry was also one of his side lines.

Nellie was a housewife until 1969 when she started as a casual helper at the post office where she is still employed as part time assistant. She tends the janitor duties at the Royal Bank. Nellie is an active member of The Catholic Womens' League, the Order of the Royal Purple and the Legion Auxiliary.

All three children received their schooling in Holden and graduated from Holden High School. Veronica attended N.A.I.T. for two years and has a position in the Cameron Library at the University of Alberta. She married Tom Smyth in 1977. They live in Edmonton. Reg. also attended N.A.I.T. and is a journeyman plumber and pipefitter. He is employed at Imperial Oil. He married Louise Davey of Saskatoon. They have two children Roland and Rhea and reside in Edmonton. Joanne attended Alberta College and is employed at Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Co. as an underwriting supervisor. She married Gary Halabut in 1982 and they live in Edmonton.

Karenko, Jim and Helen

Jim Karenko and Helen Tomko were married in 1944. They moved from Chipman in 1945 to settle on a farm near Poe. Farming didn't prove to be successful in these days, but Jim known as the "handyman" by all, looked elsewhere for another source of income to keep his family comfortable. Jim did some construction work and was employed with Dynes Garage in Ryley for a few years. Since 1957 Jim has been employed with the County of Beaver No. 9 as a maintenance man.

Helen ventured into a banking business in 1966



The Karenko family. Back Row: Marlene, Greg, Marshall, Marvin, Jim. Front Row: Linda holding Bradley, Leanne, Helen, Rhonda, Dwayne, Marilyn.

and is still an employee of the Ryley Treasury Branch.

Jim and Helen were blessed with three children. Their eldest son Marvin married Marilyn Olson of Camrose and they have a family of three, Leanne, Greg and Dwayne. Marvin is a chef at W. P. Wagner School. Their second child Marshall married Marlene Romaniuk of Derwent and they have a family of two; Rhonda and Bradley. Marshall is presently employed with N.A.D.P. Their daughter, Linda, known to many as "Mabel" worked for a dentist and as an insurance agent. During the past three years Linda was fortunate to work at several Club Meds, which enabled her to see such places as Africa, Mexico, Bahamas and Tahiti. Linda has since resumed her job as an insurance agent in Edmonton.

Kawalilak, Family

by Joe Kawalilak

My dad, Peter Kawalilak, came to Canada from Poland in 1904 as a young man. He came here with his mother, two sisters, Mrs. Dochniak and Mrs. Sroka, and two brothers Steve and Andrew to Strathcona. After a short stay in Strathcona, they moved to Round Hill to stay with friends till they could find a homestead. They filed for a homestead (NW-22-47-15) south of Holden, where I still live.

Later that year, Dad married Pearl Karpita, daughter of Mrs. Anton Tchir and stepdaughter to Anton Tchir of south Holden. They built a log house on their farm and started farming. They bought some cattle and chickens and did their farming with two oxen. Farming was very hard and tedious and gave back very little, so the men folk had to look for other jobs to keep things going. The women stayed home to keep the farms going.

Dad knew the German language fairly well when he came to Canada, so it was very easy for him to learn the English language. These languages helped him in dealing with a lot of people that had to do with business transactions, courts and any police business. He understood these languages so was chosen as interpreter for these people. He was a devout Catholic, supported the Polish Church in Polska and was the choir master and leader in the church for many years.

Dad got a job with the railroad as a section man and very soon became a foreman. He spent two years in Loughheed, and twelve years in Daysland and then came home to farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kawalilak had a family of seven children, one passed away in infancy and the other six were all raised on the old homestead. Mary, the oldest, was a teacher and married Victor Pelz at Hay Lakes, and they had four sons. Mike, married Nancy

Umrysh, and moved to Vancouver, B.C. They had a son and a daughter. Joe (lives on the home place and still farms), married Kathleen Yurkoski of Round Hill. They have three daughters and two sons. Then came Anne who married Frank Galenza of Hay Lakes. Frank and Anne had five daughters, twin boys and two sons died in infancy. John, is living close to the home place. John married Steffy Stefanizyn and they had seven daughters and three sons, one son passed away at the early age of eighteen. Helen, the youngest daughter, makes her home in Edmonton.

Dad passed away in his 89th year in 1973 after a short illness. Mom suffered a slight stroke and fell and broke her arm in her 89th year. After coming home from the Viking Hospital, her wish was to go to a nursing home as she needed a lot of care. Later that year she entered the nursing home in Viking and at 94 years still gets around on her own. She has a good memory, and enjoys the company of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and her many, many friends.

Kay, Richard and Katharina

Katharina Giebelhaus came with her parents and brothers (Adam and John G.) from Norka, Russia at the age of twelve, in 1898, to the Stony Plain district. At age fifteen and sixteen she worked out milking cows and baking bread for \$8.00 a month. She later worked in Edmonton for Mrs. Cross and Mrs. Bulyea, wife of Alberta's first Lieutenant Governor.

Katharina married Richard Kay in 1911 and lived in Calgary for a year and a half. They moved to Vegreville district in 1913 buying a quarter of land



Mrs. Katharina Kay about 1907.

SW 2-51-15. Once Richard had a runaway with his team, while bringing a load of lumber home. Luckily George Cole came along on horseback and brought Richard safely home with his broken leg.

Mr. Kay served as a councillor for six years in the M.D. of Patricia, and was on the local school board for two years. He was elder and Sunday school superintendent for many years at the Salem Reformed Church. He was also one of the first farmers to make sure that his wife had running water in her home.

Mrs. Kay was "Mother" to many teachers of Ideal School who boarded at her home. The couple farmed there until 1943, when they sold their land to their nephew Wm. A. Giebelhaus, and retired to Edmonton. After Mr. Kay's death in 1962 Mrs. Kay remained another three years in her home before selling it and returning to Vegreville.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kay, 1911.

At present Mrs. Kay resides in the Homestead Lodge where she is still enjoying good health. Her countless nieces and nephews and their families, and many friends share an enthusiastic admiration for this gracious and energetic lady.

Keith, John

by Laurretta Thygeson

John (Jack) Keith was born in Lumsdon Village, Scotland in 1898. He immigrated along with his mother and two sisters to Canada in 1910, settling in the North Battleford area. They took up residence in Edmonton a few years later. He became very fond of horses while working around "livery stables" and eventually acquired a team of horses of his own.

He married Elizabeth Gablehouse who was born in 1898 and raised at Stony Plain. Mother came from

a family of sixteen children. She has an identical twin sister. Both enjoy good health at the age of 84. Dad and Mother settled in a little logging camp at Niton, where Dad skidded logs in the long cold winters for a living.



Standing: Mavis, Ralph, Angus, Dawne, Laurretta, Elaine.
Seated: Mrs. and Mr. Keith.

In 1930 they took up farming eight miles north and east of Holden. They looked forward to their first crop which was a bumper. In early August, a severe hailstorm struck and their beautiful crop was a 100% loss. In the meantime they had acquired a milk cow from one of Mother's brothers, two pigs, and two hens with chicks, and somehow they made it through until spring. They moved again in 1935 to a farmstead a mile east of Holden. Finally in 1940, Dad purchased the farm originally owned by the Stewart family; located on the western outskirts of town. Dad and Mother worked hard during the war years marketing hogs, farming, and digging basements for new residences that were being built in the east end of town.

I am proud to say that Dad and his clever horse "Dexter", a "sway-back", hoisted all the lumber that went into one of the local elevators. In 1945, Mother and Dad finally built a new house. Having electricity and gas was great. It had been a chore to lower milk, cream, etc. down the well with a rope on a pulley. We had stored frozen fish, home-cured bacon etc. deep in the grain bin.

Dad was the "Vet" of our farming community. Many times, late at night or early morning he would offer his services to his neighbours, whether it be to help save the life of a cow trying to calf, attend to the usual hog problems, a bloated horse, or to administer a dose of penicillin. Mother was always busy in her kitchen. I can't help but reminisce and tell my family



Jack Keith's threshing crew, 1943. Back Row: Bill Laskoski, Dawne Keith, Ralph Keith. Middle Row: Art Siegel, Jack Keith, R. Boettcher, Otto Hurum, (?) Wilbert Boettcher. Front Row: Joe Sroka, (?), Grandpa Davis, Elaine partly visible.

how great it was to come home from school and feast on the good home made bread and buns spread with our delicious home-churned butter.

Our family consists of three daughters and three sons. I married Larry Thygeson of Oyen. We reside in Calgary, and have five children. Ralph married Marge Sheppard of Manville and they live in Edmonton. They too, have five children. Dawne married Merle Stalker of Viking and farms north of Holden. They have four children. Elaine is married to Charles Magnuson of Ryley and they live on the original farm of Ed. Magnuson. They have six children. Angus, married to Greta Sorensen is farming south of Holden, and they have eight children. Mavis married Charles Walker of Oyen and resides in Drumheller where Mavis is a teacher. They have three boys.

Our dad passed away in 1975 while attending an animal of one of his farmer friends. God rest his soul. Mother makes her home at Calgary, Drumheller and Ryley and enjoys visiting with the families.

Kelly, Charles Family Isabel Ecclestone MacKay

In 1902 when Charles Kelly was sixteen, he and his younger brother George left Ireland and crossed the seas to seek their fortune in this great land of opportunity. Each of the brothers had a shilling note securely sewn into their underwear by their mother. During the first year they found work in Godridge, Ontario. Then Charles, who had previously apprenticed as an office boy in Dublin, spent two years working in a steel factory in New York. After a short visit home he was employed by the T. Eaton Company where he worked for several years. On a second holiday trip to Ireland he met the mother and sister of

his future wife at a sea resort and from them he obtained Lilian's address in Toronto.

Lilian Magee came to Canada from the Emerald Isle in 1910. She was to have been accompanied by a Belfast girl friend who backed out at the last minute but Lilian steadfastly decided to venture forth alone. With twinges of guilt she has often told the story of how her anxious mother sewed several pairs of warm but bulky flannelette bloomers to keep her daughter cozy in this Arctic climate. No doubt these would have helped her survive the wintery blasts, but Lilian who considered herself much too sophisticated a lady for bloomers, somewhere along the Atlantic voyage, chucked the garments out through a port-hole. She happily remembers them floating serenely on top of the icy waves.

When Lilian arrived in Toronto she trained and worked as a dress operator. In 1915 she came west to Regina where she met and married Charles who was then employed by the Continental Oil Company.

Later the Kellys came west to Holden where Charles spent the winter of 1916 working in the lumber yard. In the spring of 1917 a house sprang up in the Poe District on SE-15-49-17 but it was later moved to NW-13-49-17. To this pioneer couple were born four children, Margaret, Ted, Ethel and Bill.

In spite of difficulties such as too many hailstorms, scarcity of dollars, lack of farming expertise, seven long miles to town with the team and many others, these courageous people were always able to laugh, their Irish humor prevailing. Mrs. Kelly remembers her grocery trips to Poe Store in the horse-and-buggy days. Her route was not all road allowance but part prairie trail which snaked kitty-corner across adjacent farms. She mentions the gates, which were extremely heavy and clumsy as if they contained several cords of wood. Many times this former city girl was left frantically struggling to close the gate while her impatient horse proceeded home at various speeds without her.

Using her talents as a seamstress, Mrs. Kelly not only sewed for her own family but also made special dresses, including a wedding dress, for women in the neighborhood. She exchanged sewing for music lessons for her family.

Not all was hardship, however, for neighbors were friendly. There were school concerts and picnics, West Holden Community Club dances, Church at Talbot, Holden Sports Day and a yearly trip in the Model T to Miquelon Lake.

Charles Kelly was a member of the Masonic Lodge — a fraternity which gave him a lot of pleasure and formed a very important part of his life. He also was an avid reader and enjoyed his radio. In later

years he built his own stereo sound system. Charles passed away in 1972, at the age of 86.

Lilian Kelly has outlived her husband, all her brothers and sisters and is now approaching her 91st birthday. She still has a sharp memory, a twinkle in her eye and loves to visit her family. She resides at the Sherwood Park Nursing Home.

Margaret, the eldest daughter, taught school for thirty-two years and is now semi-retired. She and her husband Norman Overbo live in Edmonton and both work in real estate. They have three grown children, David, Valerie and Patti and two grandchildren.

Ted carries on the family farm tradition. Since 1943 when he began operating a feed-lot on the original home quarter, his farming operation has expanded to include seventeen quarter sections and is now incorporated under the Charles Kelly Stock Farms Limited seal.

Ethel and her husband Gordon Lang also live in Edmonton. Ethel was in the air force before she married Gordon, a locomotive engineer. They have six grown children, Bob, Bill, Merna, Raymond, Tim and Michael, and three grandchildren.

Bill and his wife Velda (nee Giebelhaus) live in Camrose. Bill has been employed by NorthWest Utilities as an agent for the past twenty-six years and Velda works for the Bank of Montreal. They had two children, Marlene and Fred (deceased).

Though the Kelly Family is spread out we still enjoy getting together as much as possible. We will always have fond memories of Poe School —

“The Sweet west wind, the prairie school
a break in the yellow wheat,
The prairie trail that wanders by to
the place where the four winds meet —”



Poe School, 1980.

Kempin, Bruno and Clara by Edmund and Roland Kempin

Residing on S 23-50-15-W4 in the County of Beaver, the Kempin family enjoy the quietness and freedom of an unpolluted environment. The family consists of three children, two boys, Edmund and Roland and a girl Heidi.



Bruno and Clara — Wedding, 1954.

Bruno Kempin was born in 1926 of German parents, Wilhelm and Helen Kempin. With them he immigrated to Canada in 1928. They worked hard to clear land at Meeting Lake, Saskatchewan. After Wilhelm died, Helen married Jacob Mast Sr. and moved to Beaver County where they farmed a while, then moved to Edmonton in 1968.

In 1954, Clara Haldiman came to Vegreville, from Switzerland, to “get rich” quickly as advertised in her country. A handsome young man met her and a romance began between Clara and Jacob’s stepson, Bruno. They were married in October 1954 and have farmed since then. Clara is a certified homemaker and worked for the Social Service in Vegreville. At present she is employed at the Homestead Lodge for retired seniors.

Bruno is a grain farmer and he also raises hogs and cattle. He enjoys fixing machinery and is a good welder. His hobby is playing the accordion and at one time he played in a local band.

The family belongs to St. John Lutheran Church, where the children were confirmed. They took schooling at Holden. Edmund worked for Alberta Power for two years after graduating. He then returned to help his father on the farm. Roland completed his last two years at Vegreville Composite High School studying building construction. Roland does painting and carpentry work on his own. After graduation Heidi worked as a telephone operator for



The Kempins: Clara, Bruno, Heide, Roland and Edmund.

A.G.T. and later for the Alberta Power Company. In 1979 she moved to Calgary where she works for Stanley Engineering as a surveyor.

Life in Alberta has been gratifying to this family and they enjoy sharing their many blessings with their neighbors.

Kennedy, family

Dating back to 1904, the Kennedy's two families made Ulster House their home. Tom and Isabella began their married life in 1912. Thomas Kennedy had emigrated from Belfast, Ireland, along with his father William, to SW 6-49-16. He met and married Isabella Reid Tulloch of Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland.



The Kennedy Homestead — old house was built in 1904. Used for storage after Ulster House was built in 1911.

Tom's three children were adults by then, William, Gordon and Mary. The latter became Mrs. Charles E. Brisbin. She later raised two sons, Frank and Elgin, having lost her husband and one daughter, Margaret, during the flu epidemic of '18 or thereabout. Frank later entered the United Church Ministry and Elgin became a librarian in Hamilton, Ontario. Mary Brisbin retired to Ontario after a busy life working to the top with Manufacture's Life. She passed away there in 1974.



Mrs. Isabella Kennedy.

Ulster was also the birthplace and home of the four children of Thomas and Isabella Kennedy. It was also a stopping place, a Notary Public headquarters where many births in the district were registered, and the only store between Wetaskiwin and Vegreville as the crow flies, with many miles in muddy roads in between. Farmers hauled their wheat to the Mundare Mill to be ground into flour, porridge and chicken feed according to the grind, fine medium and coarse.

Thomas Kennedy passed away in 1931, predeceased by his father William, leaving no relatives in Ireland, being an only child. Isabella passed away in 1955 after a busy life on the farm. She raised her four children alone, except for the help she received many times from kind neighbours. She was always ready to return their kindnesses. Many times she walked to the school for Christmas concert practices, Red Cross concerts, or to play the organ for church services held at Talbot or even sometimes in her

home when the school was too cold. She had her turn at community club dances and quilting bees for the Red Cross. She also did her share of knitting for the Boy's Overseas League W.W. II. Her son Terence served overseas with the R.C.A.F. from 1941-45.

I, Terence Kennedy was born at Ulster, Alberta and went to Talbot School.

I did not finish grade eight because I was expelled from school by the teacher for not washing my smelly running shoes. I enrolled in a vocational school in Edmonton in 1940, then joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and took basic training at Brandon, Manitoba and St. Thomas, Ontario. I was posted at Ucluelet, B.C. to a bomber squadron in 1941, overseas in 1942, and served in Bomber Command in Great Britain. I returned to Canada in '45 with 918 R.C.A.F. on the way to the Pacific theatre, but the atom bombs on Japan changed the picture, and I was discharged to Yarmouth, N.S. in October '45.

In the spring of '46" I accepted a position with the North West Highway system at Whitehorse, Yukon Territories. In '53 I joined the Federal Public Service as Park Warden, and after various departmental and occupational name changes, I took retirement in '79. At present I am a semi-retired Sourdough; definition — sour on the Yukon but no dough to leave.

I live with my wife Jerry, and have two daughters, Colleen and Sharon, a son Terry, and three grandchildren all living in Whitehorse.



John and Lorraine Kennedy.

John Kennedy lives at Ardrossan, Alberta. He married Lorraine Magneson of Ryley who teaches at Ardrossan. Their children are Warren and wife Karen of Mission, B.C.; Elaine and husband Mickey McDonald of Quesnel, B.C.; Rodney and wife Louise of Jasper. They also have four grandchildren.



Norah and Leonard Thors.

Norah Kennedy married Leonard Thors who was retired to Salmon Arm, B.C., but Norah still works at the Queen Alex. Solarium for crippled children in Victoria. The Thors have five children, Bernie, John and his wife Louise who live at Prince George, Leona and Gordie Reed live at Salmon Arm, twin daughters Marcia Lewis and Maureen Phillips live in Victoria with their families. They have eight grandchildren.

Margaret Elsie Kennedy was born in 1915 and left Holden in 1931. She married Walter Martin of Mayerthorpe, Alberta and was widowed after twenty-nine years of marriage in 1969. She has two sons and two daughters, Kathleen Anderson of Fort. St. John, B.C.; Lori and Brian Caithness of Whitecourt, Alberta; Gordon of Oklahoma and Drayton Valley, Al-



Margaret Elsie and Walter Martin, 1942.

berta and Allan of Mayerthorpe. Margaret spends her time between her ten grandchildren and families. After working as an R.N.A. at Mayerthorpe and Royal Alex hospitals, she is now semi-retired working in a doctor's office in Edmonton.

Vivid and pleasant memories of days at Talbot School include sports of all kinds for all age groups, Friday afternoon concerts for the Red Cross, games of Run Sheep Run! an outdoor basketball court, using bush south of school to hide in, playhouses in the east bush wrecked by mischievous boys, lice transferred by pencil to some unsuspecting girl with braids by a boy, followed by the coal-oil treatment and many Sunlight soap shampoos, the Tiny Tots Softball team who were competitors up and down Highways 14 and 16. Many other anecdotes will be mentioned in this book, and like Talbot, other districts folded as time took its toll of the community spirit that existed among neighbours.

Kercher, Jacob

In 1931 Jacob Kercher arrived in this area from Alliance, Alberta. Some of the farmers that he worked for in the 30's were Conrad Giebelhaus, George Albrecht, Johnny Mast, Edward and John Gienger. He worked with horses, either looking after them or doing field work. He also worked on water wells. In 1936 he attended Bible school in Wetaskiwin for three months.



Jacob and Marion's wedding in 1942.

In the spring he started to farm for himself. He had a Fordson tractor in the early forties, then traded it to Joe Mock for a team of mules and harness. He rented a team of horses for a season for a hundred bushels of oats from Jim Lusk.

Jacob batched for several years before getting married. Once when he was away visiting his girl friend for three days, he returned to discover he had left the cat in the house, and it having nothing to eat had chewed the dishcloth.



1963 — Four generations, Great-grandmother Mrs. Schneider, grandmother Marion Kercher, mother Marion Petroskey, baby Louise.

One summer two of his sisters came to visit for a few days. One sister asked him if he had anything to eat. He replied "Eggs and potatoes for dinner, then potatoes and eggs for supper." One night before they went to bed they went to the outhouse and his two mules began to bray. Never having heard that sound before, his sisters ran for the house fighting with the door to see who could get in the house first.

In 1942, Jacob married Marion Thompson and they lived three miles north of Lavoy. As was the fashion in those days, they were shivareed. A few young friends plugged the chimney and the clothes hanging out on the line were tied in knots.

Three children were born on the farm, three miles west of Lavoy, Marion, Chris and Donald. Here they raised a lot of chickens and sold eggs to the Giebelhaus Hatchery.



1974 — Some of the Kercher family. Back Row: Louise Petroskey, Walter Kercher, Ron and Marion Petroskey, Jacob, Marion, Sylvia, Donald, Chris (holding son Brett), Rose Kercher. Front Row: Shirley Petroskey and Sandra Kercher.

In 1952 they bought the Gienger farm where they carried on with mixed farming, and in his spare time Jacob hunted coyotes. In 1957 another son, Walter was born. All of the children are married, Jacob and Marion have seven grandchildren. They are retired now, but still live on the farm.

Kiebiech, Metro

Metro, son of Pearl and Steve Kiebiech, was born in 1905 at Wostock, Alberta. He lived with his parents on a farm near Andrew. He later met Anna, who was born in 1912, daughter of Mary and Clement Kornicki of Hilliard, Alberta. In 1938 Metro and Anna were married in the Greek-Catholic Church in Mundare. They resided and farmed with Metro's dad in the Andrew area.

Their first daughter, Marlene was born in 1943. She married Joseph Malowany in 1960 at St. Mary's Church, South Holden and they are farming in the

Holden area. They have two children, Ronald and Cynthia.

In 1947 a son, David was born. He married Veronica Lazowski in 1967 at St. Ladimir's Church in Edmonton. He works for Crown Express in Edmonton and makes his home in St. Albert. They have three children; Ricky, Darlene and Kevin.

Their youngest son, Andrew was born in 1950. He married Irene Danylak in 1972 at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Holden. They have two children, Jerry and Amanda.

In 1959 Metro and Anna sold their farm at Andrew and purchased a farm NW ¼-24-48-17 from Freda Dorin southwest of Holden. When they moved here their children missed the river (North Saskatchewan) which went through part of their land at Andrew, but they did have electricity, which they did not have there.

In 1968 Metro passed away and Anna rented the land out for three years, after which their youngest son, Andrew, took over the farming operation. He and his family still farm there. Anna who purchased a house in Holden from Pete Lazowski in 1974, still resides there.

Kiist, Rudolf Family

Rudolf Kiist was born in 1909 in Klostitz Romania and immigrated to Canada in 1927. He arrived in Quebec and then worked as a farm hand in Saskatchewan. In the fall of 1927, he moved to Hanna, Alberta and worked on a farm there. Following that, he farmed with his parents, who arrived in the Hanna area in 1928. While in Hanna, he met Emma Steinwand, also from Klostitz, living with her parents at Halkirk. They were married in 1933. In the fall of 1934, they moved to the south Vegreville area where they farmed rented land for two years. They then moved to their permanent home farm, north of Holden (SE 2-50-15-W4) in the spring of 1937.

Through the years, more land was acquired and with the combined efforts of all their eleven children (6 girls and 5 boys) a thriving family farm was realized. The farm home was originally Mayflower School, moved to its present site in 1947.

Along with their farming, the family was actively involved in the Holden Emmanuel Evangelical Church.

In 1968, Rudolf Kiist passed away and three of his sons assumed the family operation. Mrs. Emma Kiist now resides in her own home on the farm of Dennis and Emma Fried.

As of 1982 the family of Emma Kiist numbers ten children, twenty-five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Elsie Kiist — Edmonton — secretary.

Hilda Schulz — (deceased 1977).
 Frieda Dumbroski — Edmonton — housewife.
 Ernest Kiist — Edmonton — mechanic.
 Klara Sheehan — Whitecourt — housewife.
 Irma Mix — Calgary — housewife.
 Herbert Kiist — Holden — farmer.
 Harold Kiist — Ardrossan — electrician.
 Rudolf Kiist — Vegreville — farmer.
 Frederick Kiist — Holden — farmer.
 Emma Fried — Vegreville — housewife.

Kiziak, John

by Diane (Kryska) McNeil

John Kiziak was born in 1898 in Wyszatycach, Western Ukraine, which was under Austria. He was the son of Dave Kiziak and Katherine Kalest, and had one older sister, Evelyn. John was taken into the Austrian army at the age of sixteen to fight at the Russian Front during World War I. He was cited a medal for bravery, and returned home after the war in 1918. There he met Evelyn Zablocki, daughter of Sam Zablocki and Helen Onysko; the second in a family of two girls and four boys. She was born in Wyszatycach in 1904.

John and Evelyn were married in 1921 and lived with John's parents for a few years. Their first child, Kathleen, was born in 1923; followed by a son Peter, in 1925.



Evelyn and John Kiziak.

Hearing of the opportunities in Canada, John decided to undertake a journey abroad for a look, with the intention of returning home. He arrived in Canada after one month of ocean travel, in April of 1928. He came west to Wetaskiwin where he worked until the end of May for a local farmer. John was then employed by the railway laying track in the Fort McMurray area and later, during the 1930's, he was part of the Canadian National Railway gang repairing track between Edmonton and Saskatoon. The going



Peter and Kathleen in 1930.

rate of pay was 25¢ per hour, and it took many hours of work to save enough money to buy land, especially during a time when unemployment was at its highest.

In spite of this John was optimistic. He felt that Canada had the greatest potential of all the countries he had seen and for that reason decided that this was where he wanted to raise his family. But immigration laws were such that families could not be brought over unless there was evidence that they could be supported. Toward this end, in 1938, he purchased a quarter of land in the Kopernick district, NW 21-47-15 from Katherine Kalowski, and began to make arrangements for his family in 1939.

Evelyn, and their two children, with tickets in hand, were to leave Europe on a Thursday. But four days later they were still at home, and while attending Sunday mass they were spotted by Father Ribalt. After inquiring, Father discovered that Evelyn had decided to wait; either for John to come home, or to leave for Canada later. He spoke with her insisting that she leave Europe now while there was still a chance, for he felt a world war was imminent. Evelyn took his advice and somehow managed to arrange alternate transportation to Northern Poland, go through the immigration process, and still board the ship before it left port in Gdynia, Poland. They travelled for three days to London, England; crossed

country to Liverpool and again travelled by ship, for nine days to Montreal. The train brought them west to Holden in July of 1939. There, after eleven long years, the family were joyfully reunited. By August 1, 1939 they had moved onto their farm and into their newly-built home. Only later were they to hear of their close call. The ship they travelled on was the last to leave Europe safely! The next ship leaving port was bombed; for on September 1, 1939 Germany officially declared war on Poland marking the beginning of World War II.

John and Evelyn farmed their land first with horses, then with machinery for a total of twenty five years. They retired from farming in 1965, and moved to Camrose, Alberta. There, in 1981, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and continue to be happy and in good health.



John and Evelyn Kiziak on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

They raised two children; and to start with, sent them to Unity School to learn the language of their new country. Both children eventually were to marry, and settle with their spouses in the Kopernick area.

Their daughter Kathleen, married Peter Kryska (see history of Peter Kryska); and their son, Peter, married Martha Hrabec (see history of Peter Kiziak).

Kjosness, Ingebrigt

Ingebrigt Kjosness, born in 1885 in Revillo, South Dakota, came to Alberta in 1902 with his parents, Peter (P. P.) and Elise Kjosness, and his brothers and sisters. They travelled by immigrant train to Wetaskiwin and by wagons to the homestead, located in the Vermilion Valley twelve miles north-east of where the town of Holden now stands.



Ingebrigt and Mary Kjosness.

His father, P. P. Kjosness, was influenced in his choice of land by the rumour that a railroad would be passing through that particular area. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was built in 1909 but ran twelve miles away from the homestead. However P. P. Kjosness did open a post office for the new community. It was called Martins Post Office in memory of a deceased son. In the years before the coming of the railroad, Ingebrigt, as a young man, made many trips by wagon and sleigh to bring mail and supplies from Wetaskiwin and sometimes Edmonton.

During that time, Adams School District was organized. The school was built on the corner of the Kjosness homestead.

In 1909 when the railroad reached Equity (now Ryley), P. P. Kjosness moved there and set up business. Ingebrigt continued farming. Martins P.O. also continued in service on the farm. After the town of Holden came into being there was a weekly delivery of mail by horse and buggy.

In 1910, Ingebrigt married Mary Johnson who was born in Minnesota in 1886 and came to Alberta with her family in 1903. The Johnson family settled first near Millet but later moved to a farm near Bruce.

Beginning in the early 1900's, and for many years after, Ingebrigt owned a threshing outfit. In order to operate the Case steam engine he was required to



Edna Kjosness (aged 3 or 4).

have engineer's papers. Sometime in those early years he built a small blacksmith shop where he did a great deal of repair work and shoeing of horses for himself and his neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Kjosness had five daughters — Edna, Irene, Molly, Viola and Hope — and four sons — Alton, Roy, Lorn and Bruce. Deceased are Irene (in infancy), Molly, at age eight, and Alton (1943, World War II), Roy 1972, and Bruce in 1977. Viola Nevison lives in Long Beach, California. Hope is married to Rusty Forsythe, whom she met while they were going to High School in Holden. They have three children, Doug., Bonnie and Jo-Ann. All are in Edmonton. Edna Arkinstall is in Edmonton, has three children Campbell, at Peace River, Patricia in New York, and Ray in Edmonton.

Ingebrigt died in 1968 at the age of eighty-three. Mary Kjosness is now ninety-five and lives in Vegreville with son Lorn. She has nine great grandchildren.

Kjosness, Paul Sivert by Harriet Giebelhaus

Paul Sivertsen was born in 1873 on an acreage out of Selbu, Norway. In 1889 (at the age of 16) he immigrated with his two sisters and one brother to New York, then on to Appleton, Minnesota, changing his name to Paul Kjosness. A short while later his parents followed. His father died in Appleton.

While working as a drayman, Paul met Helene Olson, who was born in Appleton in 1877. They were married in 1896. Three children, Sena, Henry and Palmer were born here.



Paul Kjosness family. Back Row: Sena (Fjellstrom), Henry, Palmer. Centre Row: Ida (Humble), Paul, Helene, Hazel (Newtson). Front Row: Mildred (Zeuske) and Silas.

In 1902, Paul proved up a homestead, located W½ 14-49-15, and built a log cabin before bringing his wife, three children and mother in 1904. During his absence, the home was destroyed by fire. Lumber and furniture for a new home were brought from Wetaskiwin by two four horse wagons. When the new home was completed, he returned to bring his livestock, chickens and machinery by train. Paul and Helene had four more children — Ida, Hazel, Mildred and Silas. All seven attended Jubilee School, north of Bruce.

In 1906, Paul's mother died and is buried in Martin's Cemetery, north of Holden.

Paul's first oat crop was exceptional. Ten newly broken acres produced a crop that had never been equalled, prompting visiting relatives from the States to move north in 1906. A new home was built in 1918, presently occupied by Barry Komarnisky. Farming was done with oxen until 1910, then horses, and in 1927 a John Deere tractor was purchased. Their first car was a 1924 Model T ford Touring, later replaced by a 1928 Essex.

Paul and Helene were members of the Lutheran Church in Holden, which they helped build and maintain.

Paul died in 1940 and Helene in 1969. They are both buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Klass, William and family

William Klass and Elizabeth (nee Kolodychuk, daughter of Michael and Anastasia Kolodychuk) were married in 1943 and resided in Ryley. William "Bill" was employed by the C.N.R. as a section man



William, Patricia and Elizabeth Klass.

and was later transferred to the hamlet of Haight. In the fall of 1945 Bill, Elizabeth and daughter Patricia moved to a farm which was owned by Anastasia Kolodychuk and later transferred to the Klass family. The location of the farm is S.E. 31-50-16-W4th and bordering the hamlet of Haight, on a C.N.R. branch line from Camrose to Vegreville and enjoyed daily train service at that time. Bill and Elizabeth decided to start farming on a small scale, as Bill was permanently employed by the C.N.R.

Dennis was born in 1947 and Richard born in 1950. Patricia and Dennis started school in Haight, but Richard started school in Holden due to the County of Beaver centralizing rural schools.

Patricia married Ernest Howrsh of Holden. They have two daughters — Monica and Trina — and live in St. Albert. Patricia teaches in St. Albert and Ernest is a school principal in Edmonton.



Dennis, Pat and Richard Klass.

Dennis married Heather Fraser from Strasbourg, Saskatchewan. They reside in Strasbourg with their three children — Michael, Melanie and Scott. Dennis is employed with road construction.

Richard married Carol Ann Jaap from Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. They reside in Sherwood Park with their two daughters — Jody and Stacey. Richard is employed as a truck driver for Canadian Auto Carriers.

Bill retired from the C.N.R. in 1969, had a farm sale in 1970 and moved to Edmonton where he lived till his death in December 1973.

Elizabeth is employed, since 1970, at the U of A Hospital, Central Supply Department.

Klawitter, Edwin and Gladys

Edwin was born in 1925 at the farm home of Walter and Bertha Klawitter NE-17-16-4. He received his education at Thule School, he was in the 4-H grain club. When old enough, he helped his parents with the farm work.



Edwin Klawitter family, 1981. Back Row: Sylvia and Neil Klawitter, Barry and Sandra Seniuk. Front Row: Bradley Seniuk, Edwin and Gladys Klawitter.

In 1948 he married Gladys Kozack from Kingman, Alberta. He farmed the home place, and also worked on the road construction crew for the County of Beaver. He owned his own school bus and drove it himself for many years. He made a trip to Montreal to Expo 1967 with the bus load of boy scouts and two leaders from Camrose. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus of Holden and the Ryley Lions Club, Gladys belonged to the C.W.L.

In 1962 their house accidentally burned and they lost all their personal belongings. With the help of neighbors, friends and relatives they were able to rebuild the house again. They will always remember how good every one was to help them.

They have two children. Sandra received her education at Holden. She married Barry Seniuk and they have a son Brady. They live in Calgary.

Neil received his education in Holden School and NAIT in Edmonton. He married Sylvia Smith and lives in Edmonton.

Edwin and Gladys sold their farm and moved to Edmonton in 1971, where they are both employed.

Klawitter, Walter and Bertha

Walter Klawitter came to Alberta with his parents in 1900, from Rapids Wisconsin, U.S.A. to the Round Hill district. When his father passed away in 1903 he came with his mother to the Ryley district.

Bertha Litke came to the Round Hill district in 1900 from Morsen County, Minnesota, U.S.A. with her parents, Joseph and Katie Litke. They moved to



50th Anniversary of Walter and Bertha Klawitter, 1968. Back Row: Evelyn, Garry, Geraldine, Johnny Kozak, Neil, Gladys, Sandra Klawitter. Front Row: Walter, Bertha, Clara and Edwin.

the Holden district from Round Hill in 1913 to Dorin's farm by Holmdene School north of Holden.

Walter and Bertha were married in 1918 at the home of Joseph Litke. They travelled cross country on a snowy day by horse and buggy to the Fish homestead south of Ryley. They farmed in the Ryley district for four years, where their daughter Clara was born. In 1923 they bought land two miles south of Haight. Since there were no buildings on the land, they lived in a house owned by Mr. Lillemo later (the Mike Hrabec place). He cleared the land using an axe on trees and dynamite on the stumps.

They moved a house on to their land and built more buildings, some with logs, and later with lumber. He broke some land with horses and in 1929 he bought a tractor. He broke his own land, that of neighbors in the Holden, Ryley and Haight district.

In 1926 they bought their first new car a 1925 Model T Ford.

Walter served on the Thule School board for many years, did road building with horses and graded roads also with horses.

In 1932 they bought their first radio. The neighbors would come to listen to the old time music and would dance to the radio music. He ground chop and threshed for the neighbors. The boys worked for a \$1.00 a day hauling bundles to the machine.



Joseph Litke age 102 with Walter and Edwin Klawitter.

Walter and Bertha farmed until 1948 when Edwin and Gladys took over and they moved to Ryley. They celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 1968. Bertha passed away in 1970, Walter moved to the Central Park Lodge in Edmonton, and passed away in 1978.

They attended the Roman Catholic Church in Holden when it was built. In 1928 Bertha's father Joseph Litke, came and made his home with them until 1933 when he passed away at the age of 102.

Clara helped her parents on the farm until the fall of 1939, when she married John Kozack from Kingman, Alberta. They farmed in the Haight district for three years. John had the feed mill in Haight, ground chop for the farmers. In 1943 they bought land four miles north of Ryley, where they mixed farmed for thirty two years. In 1980 he retired. They have two girls. Geraldine married Garry Keohane from Round Hill, they live in Ryley, and have two children. Evelyn works and lives in Edmonton.

Klymochko, Mike and Family by Mike Klymochko

I, Mike Klymochko, was born in 1914 in the Olesko district, southeast of Mundare. My parents, Adam and Magda (Kissel) immigrated to Canada at the turn of the century from the Ukraine. My father came from Rozdaliw, Sokol in 1907, and Mother from Laniwchi, Borschiw in 1911. They were married at Mundare in 1912. My parents lived with my grandmother, before moving to Glendon where they farmed for a few years and then moved back to live with my grandmother.

My father died of the flu in 1918 at the age of 27. In 1919, my mother married Fred Palsat, a widower of Mundare, and we moved to his farm northeast of Mundare, in the Stanislawow school district, where I got my education. My step-father passed away in 1934, and being the eldest, I had to help Mother with the farming operation, which I did until I married, when my brother Steve took over.

In 1935, I married Pauline, daughter of Sam and Rosie Chmilar, of Mundare. She received her education at Brody School. She then helped her parents on the farm until her marriage.

I rented a farm from my father-in-law until 1942 when we bought our present farm (S $\frac{1}{2}$ -32-50-15) from Mrs. Edith McKeith. The land was mostly heavy bush with only 80 acres cultivated. There was an old house, a log barn and no fences. Canada Life Insurance held the mortgage, which I bought and they released the north 240 acres of section 32-50-15, presently owned by Nick Stuart.



Theresa, Patricia, Alfred, Roseann and Laurie. Mike (father) and Pauline (mother).

When we moved to this district our children were Alfred, four years old, Patricia was two and Rose Ann, six months. Theresa was born in 1945 and Laurie in 1951.

The spring of 1942 was very wet and working with horses, it was late before the crop got seeded. In spite of this, we had a bumper crop. The fall was also wet but we managed to thresh wheat and barley; oats we threshed the next spring; also, we resingled the roof on the house and fenced the pasture and built corrals for the pigs.

In 1944, I began clearing land, first by hand and later with brush cutters, which made the job a lot easier. I hired help to cut brush by hand; Mr. Johnsen, a negro man I met in Ryley, cut 20 acres one summer. He was a nice man and a hard worker. I also hired Indians for the job. Breaking and root picking I did myself, with the help of a 15-30 McCormick tractor which I bought in 1944 for \$500.00. Over the years, I rented land from local farmers and still do. This helped pay the mortgage and buy more land and machinery.



Klymochko family, Christmas, 1982. Standing: Joseph Frebrowski, and wife Rose Ann, son Duane and Dale, Alfred Klymochko, Kelly Frebrowski, Tina, Pat, Sheri and Don Frebrowski. Seated: Laura Skolney, Pauline Klymochko holding granddaughter Tara Skolney, Mike Klymochko holding grandson Jonathon Skolney and Larry Skolney (Jonathon a new addition). Missing: Jacki Frebrowski.

While the children were growing up, we had a mixed farm, consisting of cattle, hogs, chickens and milk cows. This involved a lot of work, and the children all helped. This led to their joining of 4-H clubs, whose motto is "Learn to do by doing".

Our children attended Ideal school, a distance of 3½ miles. In the early days, the roads were poor and snowplows nonexistent. A number of times the horse and sleigh would come home, but no children. Occasionally, their teacher, Mr. Frank Stuart, would have to go looking for them. Later the school bus picked them up at the gate and transported them to the

Holden School. Today, the children have fond memories of "the good old days" in the country school.

Alfred attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture, receiving his diploma in Practical Farming. He now farms in partnership with us.

Patricia also attended Vermilion College, taking Home Economics. In 1962, she graduated as a registered nursing aide in Edmonton and has since worked at the Vegreville Hospital. She married Don Frebrowski of Mundare in 1964, and they have three children, Kelly, Tina and Sheri. Pat and Don live in Vegreville and Don farms near Beaver Lake, raising grain and beef cattle.

Rose Ann chose to stay home and help on the farm after completing her education. She married Joe Frebrowski in 1961. They live in Edmonton where Joe is custodian with the Separate School Board, and hobby farms a quarter of land near Beaver Lake. Rose Ann works at the Dickensfield Extended Care Centre. They have three children, Dale, Jackie, and Duane.



Patrick and Theresa Farrell with Michael (12) and Chad (8).

Theresa completed high school at Holden and a secretarial course at Vermilion College. While there, she met Allen Zyla, and they were married in 1965. They lived in Edmonton where she worked in a bank and Allen for AGT. He passed away in 1975. They had two children, Michelle and Chad. In 1976, Theresa married Patrick Farrell who was employed with Gulf in Calgary. They now reside in Toronto.

Our youngest daughter, Laurie, graduated from Holden High School. In 1978, she married Larry Skolney, also a graduate of Holden High School and

they live on the Skolney family farm in the Kopernick district south of Holden. They have one daughter, Tara. Laurie worked in the pharmacy department of the W. W. Cross Cancer Institute for about ten years, during which time she attended Red Deer College and received her certificate as a Pharmacy Technician. She is now assistant manager of Value Drug Mart in Vegreville. Larry farms and works part time for his step-father, George Shapka at G & S Implements.

Our family are members of the Borschiw Catholic Church and over the years have supported the parish in various capacities. I was president for eleven years, and have been vice-president for a number of years. My wife has been treasurer for St. Barbara's Ladies Society for many years and our son, Alfred, is treasurer for the parish.

I have registered our farmstead with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture as Lonely Pine Farm. The name was chosen because of the one pine tree, which was in the bush, and now stands in the open field. My son Alfred and I have expanded our farming operation to 1440 acres; as well, we have a fair herd of beef cattle. We owe much to the education received at Vermilion and to the help and encouragement received from the local District Agriculturist, in implementing modern farming methods.

Knudson, Alvin, Family by Lorraine Knudson

Alvin was born at Ryley in 1922. He trained in the watchmakers trade and in 1946 opened a jewellery store, and a 5¢ to \$1.00 store on main street in Holden. The 5¢ to \$1.00 didn't pay, so after a year he continued with only watch repair and jewellery.



Alvin and Lorraine Knudson in their Holden jewellery store.

He married Lorraine Sizer in the Holden Lutheran Church in 1947. They first lived in the Crimmin house. Due to progress the business moved to where Nick Bilyk had his coffee shop. Here the family moved to the living quarters behind the store. A son Kenneth Alvin was born in 1949, and a daughter Karen Darlene in 1951. After the birth of Karen the family moved into a new house of John Laskosky's where they resided until they sold the business to Gordon Ash and moved to Camrose in 1953.

Alvin had employment with Brinsmead Jewellers for thirteen years before opening his own store.

Three more children were born, Cheryl Lorraine in 1955, Eldon Gene in 1957 and Merlin Dale in 1961. Kenneth and his wife Beverley (Sawchuk) live in Camrose where he is employed by Beaver Lumber. Karen and her husband Terry Olsen have a daughter Teri Lee and a son Tanner James. They live in Camrose where he is self employed in carpentry. Cheryl lives in Edmonton and is a claims officer with the Workers Compensation Board. Eldon lives in Camrose and drives trucks for Hi-Way 13 Transport. Merlin is in Edmonton apprenticing in mechanics.

Alvin closed the jewellery store in 1979 and went into semi-retirement. He and Lorraine still reside in Camrose.

Koetke, Ernest and Betty by Ernest Koetke

I, Ernest, was born in the spring of 1936 and lived one-half mile southwest of Holden.

Elizabeth (Betty) Hurum was born in the fall of 1937 and was raised by her parents two miles east of Holden.



Greg, Lori, Betty, Ernest and Karen Koetke.

We attended Holden School graduating in 1955. Betty was employed at the post office in Holden for the next three years, while I farmed for one year and then spent the next two years at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. In the spring of 1958 I was employed with Buchanan Construction in Edmonton. Betty and I were married in 1958 and lived in Edmonton at 9918-81 Ave. Our son Greg was born in 1959. In the spring of 1961, we moved out to the farm with my dad, Oscar. Herb Larson moved our belongings with his three ton truck.

We had two daughters, Karen born in 1962 and Lori in 1967. All three children rode the school bus to Holden School. Greg and Karen completed grade twelve, while Lori is in grade ten. Greg has farmed with us since graduating. Karen attended Camrose Lutheran College for one year, worked at radio station CFCW for a year. In 1982 she was united in marriage to Terry Pederson.

Koetke, Fred and Emily

In 1875, Henry Koetke, his wife, a son Henry and daughter Elizabeth came to Merville, Iowa from Germany. In 1878 his sister Louise and her husband Henry Kaiser immigrated to Merville also. With the

Kaisers came their orphaned brother, Fred Koetke, then thirteen years old. Their father had died in 1867 when Fred was two years old, and their mother ten years later in 1877. Fred lived with his sister, and a year after he arrived in America he went to work for a farmer by the name of Fred Shultz. He worked for him for a number of years.

In 1889 another family, by the name of "Kruger", emigrated from eastern Germany to the same district in Iowa. With them came their two sons and a daughter, Emily. Fred became acquainted with the Kruger family and in 1893 Fred and Emily were married. They drove by team and buggy from Merville to Sioux City, a distance of thirty miles for their wedding.

After their marriage they continued to live near Merville and work on the Shultz farm. It was here that four of their seven children were born, Fred Jr. in 1894, Arthur in 1896, who died in infancy, Alma in 1898 and Oscar in 1900. Also in 1900 the family moved to Plainview, Nebraska where they lived until the winter of 1903. Otto was born in November of that year. The heat of the summer and the constant threat of tornadoes prompted Fred to look for land elsewhere.



Fred Koetke family in 1917. Standing: Oscar, Fred Jr., Otto and Alma. Seated: Mrs. Koetke, Willie, Elizabeth and Fred.

In 1902, a call came from the North West Territories in Canada, for settlers to come to that area. That same year Fred came to Wetaskiwin and bought a half section of land near Red Deer Lake. His wife and children came to their new home in 1903.

From Merville, Iowa, twelve families came and settled in the area from east of Round Hill to Strome, most of them settling south of Holden, some of whom were the Mohlers, McCarters, Courtneys, Mellots, Boggs, Edingers and Krugers. James Mohler told Fred of the open grassland that was to be had in that area and that homesteads were still available, suggesting that he sell his land at Red Deer Lake. In 1903 Fred filed on a homestead (N.E. 28-47-16), and the Krugers filed on N.W. 32-47-16. Fred also bought N.W. 27-47-16 from the C.P.R. for \$3 an acre. It was here that he built a set of log buildings and dug a well. On Christmas Eve, 1904, the family again moved into a new home.

They started farming by renting fifteen cows and a bull from J. R. McKenzie, a rancher near Round Hill, who had been here since 1890. The arrangement was that they get half of the calf crop, and he also bought a team of horses from Lars Johnson.

Two more children were born to them, Elizabeth (Betty) in 1905, and Ernest (Willie) in 1908. The children got their education first at Palmer, and later at Scona. When Sandstorm school was built in 1913, they went there.

In 1909 the railway came through Holden. This made the markets for grain and livestock closer. During those early years prairie chickens, rabbits and wild ducks were a source of food. The chickens were so plentiful one could shoot five or six off a stook before the flock would fly away. One of the hazards in those days were mosquitoes by the million! Smudges had to be made for livestock every day.

In 1917 Fred bought land near Daysland, where they lived for a period of three years and then moved back to their original farm. As the family grew, their sons took over the operation of the farm. Fred and Emily moved to the town of Holden in 1928. They lived here for a few years, but eventually moved back to the farm. Emily passed away in 1942 at the age of 67. Fred retired and went to live in a Swedish Senior Citizens home in Wetaskiwin where he died in 1949 at the age of 84.

Fred Jr. was married to Thora Lindstrom of Donald. They have three sons and one daughter. He died in 1955.

Alma was married to A. L. Gibson. She passed away in 1970.

Oscar married Josie Myrmo. He passed away in 1974.

Otto married Alma Pederson from the Gladstone

district. (Their respective stories are elsewhere in this book.)

Elizabeth (Betty) married Donald MacGregor. They have four sons and two daughters. She passed away in 1973.

Willie passed away in 1923 at the age of 15, a victim of diphtheria.

Koetke, Frederick and Thora

Fred was the eldest child of Fred and Emily Koetke. He was born in 1895 in Merville, Iowa and came to Alberta with his parents at an early age. He lived in the Holden area for many years, later settling in Edmonton where he resided until his death in 1955 at the age of 60.



Fred and Thora Koetke, Gerald, Douglas, Doris and Don.

Fred married Thora Adela Lindstrom in 1935 and they had four children, Gerald, Douglas and Donald (twins) and a daughter, Doris.

Gerald married Inger-Lise Kaare in 1965 and lives in Edmonton. They have two children, Kevin and Tyla.

Don married Darlene Saundry in 1964, and lives in Minnedosa, Manitoba. Their children are Scott and David.

Douglas is single and lives in Calgary.

Doris married and divorced Pete Hudson. They had two children, Mark and Tara. She is now married to Bud McHarg and lives in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Koetke, Norman and Leona

After graduating from high school in 1951, Norman joined his father, Otto Koetke, in the operation of the family farm. It was while he was attending high school in Holden that he met Leona Suchy, daughter of Peter and Mary Suchy, who farmed north of Holden. Prior to their marriage in 1955, Leona was employed at the Holden Post Office. Norman continued



Back Row: Clayton, Doug and Debbie Appleby, Norman Koetke. Seated: Melanie and Janice Trann, Tyler Appleby, Leona Koetke, Kimberly Trann.



Standing: Ron and Ernest Koetke, Grace and John Albrecht, Lorna and Harry Naslund, Alvin Koetke and Raymond Laskoski. Seated: Carol, Betty, Josie, Oscar and Diane Koetke, Melba Laskoski.

to farm in partnership with his father until his parents retired in 1966.

Their daughter Debra was born in 1956, and her sister Janice in 1957. While the girls were growing up they attended school in Holden and participated in school activities, Brownies, Guides and 4-H Beef Club. Debbie found 4-H especially rewarding when she attended the Provincial Selections at Olds and was awarded an exchange trip to New Brunswick in 1974.

Debbie attended the Grant McEwan School of Nursing, obtaining her R.N. in 1976. That same year she married Douglas Appleby, son of Grace and Bert Appleby of Holden. They presently reside in Viking, where Doug owns and operates his own plumbing business. They have two sons, Tyler and Clayton.

Janice married Kenneth Trann of Edmonton in 1974. They lived near Kingman with their daughters Melanie and Kimberly, while Ken commuted to Edmonton where he taught school. During this time he played baseball with the Holden Blue Jays. Ken passed away in 1980, a victim of leukemia. Janice and her daughters now reside in Gibbons, Alberta.

Keenly interested in sports, Norman played hockey and baseball, and more recently old timers hockey. Both he and Leona enjoy curling and traveling, finding both pleasant diversions during the long winter months.

Koetke, Oscar

Oscar Henry Frederick Koetke was raised in the Sandstorm District on a farm now occupied by Milton MacGregor. In the twenties he started farming on his own farm. This place is the one now occupied by Ernest and family.

In 1932, I, Josie, joined him and we farmed until 1935. Then we sold our livestock at a sale and moved to the former Maruszczyka farm just out of Holden. While there the roof blew off the house. The force of the storm sent a splinter through a two-by-four on the granary as if it were a nail. We then chased our chickens out and lived in their place until the house was repaired.

In 1939 when our daughter Lorna was one week old we moved back to our farm. We travelled in a lumber wagon. We grain-farmed as well as raised registered Holstein milk cows. We also raised registered beef cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys, geese, yes — even purebred dogs.

Our family consists of Harold, Alvin, Melba, Ernest, Lorna, Grace, and Ronald, who passed away in 1977. Oscar died in 1974. I moved to Camrose in 1974.

Koetke, Otto and Alma by Otto Koetke

I was born in Plainsview, Nebraska in 1902, son of Fred and Emily Koetke. I came with my family to what was then the Northwest Territories in 1903, settling first near Wetaskiwin and later south of Holden.

I first attended school at Scona; Miss Griffen and Bertha Andrews were some of my early teachers. When Sandstorm School was built we went there. In 1917 the family moved to the Daysland area, so I attended school there for three years, after which we returned to the original farm. I quit school when I was seventeen and worked on the farm with my dad, taking over my dad's farm in 1926.



Otto and Alma Koetke with their family, Myrtle Norman and Bernice.

In 1928 I married Alma Pederson from the Gladstone district. She was born in 1908, daughter of Peder and Olina Pederson. After our marriage we continued to farm my dad's land until 1934, when we bought a farm of our own (S½ and N.E.¼ of 8-47-16). We lived and worked on that land until 1966, when we retired and moved to Daysland, where we still reside.

We had four children, Myrtle born in 1928, Norman in 1931 and twins, Bernice and Bernard in 1936. We lost Bernard at the age of six months. Myrtle, married to Peter Eliason, lives on a farm near Outlook, Saskatchewan. They have four children, Terry Lynn, Dianne, Jerry and Don.

Norman is married to Leona Suchy of Holden. (see their story)

Bernice married Malcolm Hancock of Marwayne, Alberta. They reside in Calgary, where Mac is superintendent with the Alberta Wheat Pool, and Bernice works for Fluor Canada Ltd. Their children are Kelly, Wendy, Brad and Scott.

I recall the tremendous amount of wildlife that was here in the early days. This not only helped supplement the meat supply for the settlers, but also gave us boys a lot of pleasure hunting ducks, geese and coyotes. In later years I hunted coyotes with dogs, and between 1947 and 1957, I ended the tracks of 715 coyotes.

The early settlers experienced many hardships, but because of their determination, perseverance and hard work this country has grown to what it is today.

Kolodychuk, John **submitted by the Family**

John was born in 1880, of Polish descent, to parents Joseph Kolodejchuk (born in 1853) and Mary

Seniuk. Their passport dated 1899 states their place of residence as Cygany, Borszczow, Galicia. The family which consisted of eight children, Michael, John, Anton, Peter, Katherine, Kazimierz, Agnes and Nancy immigrated to Canada. Albert and Jacob were born in Canada.



John Kolodychuk.



Anne (Febrowski)
Kolodychuk.

On the same ship that brought the Kolodejchuks to Canada was the family of Joseph Febrowski and his wife Nancy (Martiniuk) and their five children. Their daughter Anne later became the bride of John Kolodychuk.

Like so many others, they came to Canada in search of a better living. Among their few belongings they brought a grindstone, a scythe and a sickle. They came as far as Edmonton by train. From there they had to depend on the good will of the few former settlers. Men went on foot in search of homesteads. In general, the land was good but mostly covered with trees, marshes, sloughs and creeks. Here mosquitos ruled supreme!

According to homestead records, Joseph Kolodychuk claimed a homestead 1901 (SE 20-51-16-W4). Later John Kolodychuk bought his own homestead (NE 20-51-16-W4). Gradually his brothers settled on nearby homesteads to the south. The first dwellings were made of logs, plastered over with clay with a thatched roof. The stove was made of clay with a piece of flat iron on top and a smoke stack. This provided means for cooking and warming the house. A plough made of wood and fitted with a plough share was drawn by oxen. When the flies and mosquitoes were bad oxen were sometimes hard to control. They would run away with the implement and lie down in a slough, then no punishment could make them get up. Staple food supplies were brought from Edmonton, the men made the trip on foot.

In 1903 John Kolodychuk married Anne Febrowski. For music there was a mouth organ, and



Back Row: Rudolph, Vincent, Anton, Agnes, Mike, Sr. Catherine, Sr. Eulalia, Mrs. Vincent Kolodychuk, Angie.

a collection for the young couple which amounted to \$9.00. John's homestead was six miles from Beaverhill Lake. Fish, a source of food was plentiful. For meat, one could hunt wild ducks, geese, prairie chickens and rabbits. In the summer, there were wild berries. Songbirds, butterflies and wild flowers decorated the landscape. What was most prominent was the fragrance of the wild rose. Just about every family owned some sheep as a source of wool for knitting warm clothing. Shoes were repaired over and over again and in the summer children almost always went barefoot. Although many women could not read a recipe, the tasty meals they prepared were second to none. The homemade bread baked in the outside clay ovens was most relishing.

John and Anne Kolodychuk raised thirteen children, all of whom attended Moscow School.

Agnes was married to William Maiko of Hilliard. They raised ten children. William passed away in 1976, and Agnes presently resides in Father Filas Manor at Mundare. Stanley, (see history elsewhere in this book). Mike married Katherine Komarnisky of Holden. They farmed near Inland and Innisfree and later operated businesses in several locations in British Columbia. They are now retired, living in Vernon, B.C. They have four children, Rudolph, Peter, John and Sylvia and eight grandchildren. Catherine, Sophie and Rosie chose religious lives in the Order of St. Benedict Sister Catherine as a teacher, Sister Eulalia (Sophie) as a nurse, and Sister Laudislaus (Rosie) passed away at the age of twenty-six. Mary married Alex Bonar. Their home is in Surry, B.C. and they had three children, Frank, Alex and Jack and six grandchildren. Mary's husband has passed away. Brother Casimir (Rudolph) joined the Franciscan Order and is presently in charge of general maintenance at the Franciscan Friary in Edmonton. Brother Rudolph (Alexander) also a member of the

Franciscan Order is presently in Peru. Vincent married Anne Sawchuk. They live and worked at Kelowna, B.C. and are now retired there. Their children are Anne, Rose, Bill and Paul and seven grandchildren. Angie married Bert Searle, a member of the Canadian Army at Namao. After Bert passed away, Angie continued her nursing career. Their children are Patricia, Paul-Wayne and Gwyne and three grandchildren. Anton who served overseas during W.W.II returned with a war bride from Scotland. Anton and Gracie have four children, Elizabeth, Deborah, Tony and Scott. They also have four grandchildren. Anton spent most of his life in construction. John (Don Kirby), a fireman, is married to June Currie and lives in Burnaby, B.C. Their children are Donna, Dianne, Dean and Deryl. They have two grandchildren.

John Kolodychuk, his wife and five of their youngest children moved to Kelowna, B.C. in 1935. After the children were married, John sold his property and stayed successively at the homes of some of his children. He spent his last eight years with Stanley, on his original homestead. He died in 1967 at the age of 87. Anne Kolodychuk passed away 1937.

Kolodychuk, Stanley and Family

Stanley Kolodychuk was born in 1907 at Haight, Alberta. His father John Kolodychuk and mother Annie Frebrowski came from Poland in 1899. They came by train to Edmonton, then were on their own to search for a homestead. They endured many hardships en route.



Stanley and Josephine Kolodychuk.

Stanley, the second child of a family of thirteen went to Moscow School. He left school at an early age to help with the farm work. He manoeuvred an eight horse team in breaking the rough stumpy prairie.

Stanley married Josephine Kozdrowski of Chipman and built his home on a quarter of land he inherited. The post office of Inland served the area. Three sons were born there, Ernie in 1932, Lawrence 1937, and Adolph 1940.

Stanley sold that property and bought land with buildings near Holden. Three more children were born to the family, Cecilia in 1943, Shirley 1948, and Patricia 1953. All attended school at Longridge and Holden. They also took part in the activities of calf, grain, and clothing 4H Clubs.

Ernie was more inclined to help his dad on the farm doing chores than to pursue higher grades. He is single and lives at Red Deer. Lawrence upon leaving school worked on the farms, and on oil rigs. He married Jessie Hughes of Rimbey. They have one daughter Sharon attending school in Holden.

Stanley left the Holden property to Lawrence and bought his father's original homestead. He moved to the Haight area with the rest of the family. Living close to St. Anthony's Parish, Stanley and Josephine devoted themselves to tending to the needs of the parish.

Adolph became a carpenter, married Carol Gowsell of Vegreville. They have three children, Janina, Jamin, and Jordon. After doing construction work in N.W.T. he became a carpentry instructor at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton.



Kolodychuk family: Ernie, Stanley, Adolph, Lawrence, Shirley and Cecelia. Front Row: Josephine and Patricia

Cecilia married Bill Mandiuk of Mundare, has seven children, Marilyn, Roseanne, Steven, Douglas, Annie, Dorothy and Gloria. They live at Holden now.

Shirley had a variety of interests in education, sewing, cooking and dancing. She passed away at the early age of sixteen, victim of leukemia.

Patricia finished high school and went to work in the meat industry in Edmonton. She is married to Wilfred Bouthillier of Vegreville, a city bus driver.

Stanley's dad spent his last years with the family. He kept busy with gardening and making things from twine. He passed away at eighty-six. Josephine passed away at the age of sixty-two after suffering with high blood pressure. Stanley retired to Holden. He enjoyed helping Lawrence, and taking trips to visit relatives. He passed away from cancer at the age of seventy-one, in 1978.

Komarnisky, Anton and Annie by Peter and Mary Komarnisky

The Ukraine was and is the bread basket of Europe. Since they had no army of their own they were easy prey for surrounding countries. It was occupied by different powers for centuries. The oppression became unbearable and people were reduced almost to slavery.



Anton and Annie Komarnisky 1914.

From Canada under Sir Wilfrid Laurier news trickled into eastern Europe that the Canadian border was opened to immigration, where vast tracts of virgin land were given away free. This good news spread rapidly and families by the thousands started an unprecedented exodus. Reluctantly they left their beloved homeland and selling what meagre belongings they had, struck out for freedom. They found it, but the price was high. A person had to be next to a bionic individual to have survived the harsh conditions in western Canada.

My father Anton Komarnisky belonged to many of those hardy and determined immigrants. Father was born in 1871, in the "celo" of Hudokowentz in the province of Halychyna near the town of L'viv. He served in the Austrian Army for four years, then married Annie Woicickoski who was born in 1879 in the "celo" of Stostanko near the town of Peremishel. This family also included grandfather Pontelay (Panco) Komarnisky (1831-1919) and his wife the former Julie Rachuk (1842-1930). Another family included on this trip was father's sister Hunuska and her husband Harry Pastuzyk, and their infant son Mike. Also in this group was mother's brother Anton Woicickoski who later returned to the Ukraine to bring his brother Stanley, but was killed in the W.W. II. He did manage to get Stanley out of the country in 1913. Also in this group was father's infant son Paul Komarnisky. They boarded a cargo ship at Rotterdam in May 1904. While crossing the Atlantic a daughter was born. They named her Atlanta but later changed it to Agnes.

They landed in Montreal in June then went to Winnipeg and finally to Strathcona. They trekked southeast to join other Ukrainian families who had already settled in the Kopernick and Scona districts. Before acquiring their own homestead they lived at times at George Laskoskis, Zimeneks, Tchirs and Ozubkos. Father lost no time filing for a homestead and then building a hut from logs and clay.

He worked in different parts of the province but had to be back in order to improve the homestead in accordance with government regulations.

One humorous incident occurred when he worked near Calgary. After earning some money on the railroad, he bought a horse which was supposed to have been broken for harness and riding. However when he started for home he found out that the horse was only halter broke. The horse threw him and he led the animal all the way home. The trouble was not yet over. The horse and the oxen were not compatible as a team especially in hot weather. He abandoned the ox and bought more horses until he had two four-horse outfits. This was not good enough so he bought his first tractor in 1915. This was a one cylinder machine called "Mogul." With this new source of power he concentrated more in expanding his cattle herd. With open prairie land all around he started raising those large domestic horned Herefords. By 1919 he had over a hundred head but when the hard winter set in that year, losses were extremely heavy.

Together with the Mogul tractor he bought a McCormick thresher which was one of the first in the district. In 1915 he bought a new Chev. car, and in 1924 a new Model T Ford. In 1920 he traded the old tractor for a new two cylinder Titon and a newer

threshing machine. Then in 1924 he brought home a new Case 18-32 cross motor tractor.

Besides buying machinery, land had to be bought. Adjacent to the homestead he acquired another homestead in 1914 which was abandoned by a neighbor, named Lacusta. In 1910 a quarter of C.P.R. land was bought and the following year another quarter from the Hudson Bay Co. Later another C.P.R. quarter was purchased and one in 1928 from M. Black, who owned the Red and White store. In 1941, 160 acres was purchased from McDougal and Secord, a land agent in Edmonton.

In addition to all these land purchases the community decided to abandon their log church, so in 1915 a decision was made to build a new and bigger church. No one had any money, and no one would come forth to sign a mortgage to buy the lumber. Since the church was very important to him, Father, at his own risk, obtained a mortgage on his land and machinery and the church was completed in June 1916 on the site where it stands today. He also played a major part in its construction.

All these activities were apparently not enough. In 1920 he went into partnership with his brother Paul and established a General store on the east of main street in Holden where the Village Office is now located. Running the store interfered with farming so he gave the store to his son Paul and Steve Komarnisky. By 1923 the store business bellied up due to uncollected accounts and faulty bookkeeping. Father suffered a crippling blow financially but eventually cleared his debts. He always remembered this unfortunate venture.

During these busy intervening years he managed to raise nine children.

Paul married Julia Tomashesky

Mike married Hazel (Tchir) Owchar

Stanley married Anne Ozubko

Agnes married John Brenda

Jenny married Peter H. Bilyk

Martin married Kathrine Hladilo

Peter married Mary Shanley, and his twin brother John, died in 1935 during a measles epidemic.

Father died in 1950 and is buried in the church cemetery. Mother died in 1968 and rests beside him. Grandfather Pontelay and grandmother Julie are also buried in the family plot.

Komarnisky, Harry

Harry Komarnisky and his twin sister Annie were born to Metro and Mary Komarnisky in, 1914. The family had homesteaded on the SE 18-48-16-W4 in the Palmer District, and the children attended Palmer School.

In 1934, Harry married Tillie Bianowski and they

farmed with his parents for six years. In 1940 they moved to the Poe District and rented land from Harry Stuart. In 1945 they purchased the SW 17-49-16-W4 from the Ferguson family and farmed there until 1964 when they purchased the store at Poe, Alberta. They had two children, Selmer and Emily.

Selmer was born in 1935 and attended Poe School. In 1960 he married Celia Tomaszewski of Round Hill, Alberta. They farmed the NE 16-49-16-W4 which they rented from Stan Jobber. In 1964 they took over the operation of the farm from his parents, and continued to live there until 1972 when they sold to the Hutterian Brethren. In 1972 they purchased the Leon Kozdroski farm west of Poe, and in 1979 sold it to Peter Komarnisky.

They had three children, Bob, Debbie and Craig. Selmer is employed by the County of Beaver as a school bus driver, and resides in Ryley, Alberta.

Emily was born in 1941 and attended school at Poe and Holden. She married Jim Homeniuk and they have two sons, Chris and Murray. They reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

Harry passed away in 1973 and Tillie continued to operate the store at Poe for two years. In 1975 she decided to retire and purchase a home in Ryley, Alberta where she presently resides.

Komarnisky, Isidor Family by Nadia Nichyporuk

My father Isidor, known to most as Issac, was born in 1901 in the village of Wusatyn, District of Czorthiw in Ukraine. He came to Canada with his parents Paul and Ksenka Komarnisky. They homesteaded north of Holden, in the Borschiw district. In 1925 he married Sophia, daughter of Fred and Anna Kobylnyk from the Daysland area. They were married in the Kopernick Church by Rev. Wladyka and made their home north of Holden where they farmed



Isaac and Sophia Komarnisky, 1946.

across from his uncle, Harry Cebryk. I, Nadia, was born there in 1926. Shortly after, we moved to a farm southeast of Holden. Here, in 1928, my sister Dora was born. Later we moved north of Holden to a farm which is now known as John P. Komarnisky's place. Here I attended Holmdene School. Early in 1933 we moved to a farm southeast of Holden where brother William was born in May of the same year. That property is now being farmed by Herman Laube. Here Dad farmed till 1944 and while we lived there, I, with my sister and brother, attended West Bruce School. In the fall of 1944 we had an auction sale, as Dad had bought a house and feed mill business in Holden. Dad and Mom moved back to the farm and resumed farming. In late 1947 Dad became ill and



Clem and Nadia Nichyporuk and Sophia Komarnisky.

passed away in 1948. Being a member of the St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church south of Holden, he was buried in the church cemetery. Mom found that farming was difficult for a woman, so she moved to Holden where she worked in the hotel there for a few years. In 1952 Mom moved to Edmonton where she obtained employment and worked there till she retired in 1972. She now resides in a senior citizens high rise in Edmonton.

Dad came from a family of six boys and five girls, his brothers Peter and John are now deceased. His mother passed away in 1941 at the age of 66 years and father in 1950 at the age of 83.

Mom came from a family of eight children, four brothers and three sisters. Her parents, three brothers and one sister are now deceased.

The thing that stands out most in my mind about my father is that he was an outdoors type of man. He enjoyed hunting rabbits, grouse, ducks and other small game. At one time he brought home five coyote pups and raised them as pets. When they got big they

became a bit of a nuisance and had to be released. Most of all he loved and enjoyed his family, taking them out to movies and picnics. He was a generous man, and never refused to give a helping hand to others. It was told to me by relatives, that when Dad was still single, while operating the family steam driven threshing outfit, there was a fire and he was badly burnt, but by the grace of God he was able to make a complete recovery.



Dora and Albert Balog.

Dad and Mom had three children, two daughters and one son.

Myself, Nadia, married Kliment (Clem) Nichyporuk formerly of Boyle, Alberta. We make our home in Edmonton, Alberta.



Bill, Edith, Karen, Theresa and Douglas.

Dora married Albert Balog. They have one daughter, Charlotte, son-in-law Paul Urbanowicz and two grandchildren, Jason and Shari. They all reside in Brantford, Ontario.

William married Edith Bichel of Macklin, Sask. They make their home in Edmonton and have three children.

Karen married Scott Hindle of Ft. McMurray. Douglas and daughter Theresa are at home.

We never had a lot of what some of us have now, but we had wonderful parents for which I'm very thankful. I'll always cherish the memories of the good times of growing up on the farm. Some of these years involved many hardships and hard work but the good times made up for the bad.

Komarnisky, John P.

by Katherine (Korpan) Komarnisky

John was born in 1910, at Borschiw, son of Paul and Cassie Komarnisky. As a young boy he attended Myroslaw School and helped his parents on the farm. He trapped muskrats, weasels and snared rabbits, and when he got older he worked for farmers and made enough money to purchase some machinery.

In 1930 he rented some land five miles north of Holden, which he bought in 1944 (N½-12-50-16).

John and I (the former Katherine Korpan) were married in 1936. A wedding reception was held at my parents' home, where a platform, decked with shade trees, was built for dancing. The following week the same type of reception was held at John's parents' home.



45th Anniversary of John and Katherine Komarnisky.

We bought some furniture and moved into a small house. Farming was not an easy task, with buildings to be built, a well to be dug and land to be cleared. Conveniences were few, with almost everything done by hand, which included milking cows, washing clothes and churning our own butter. For entertainment we listened to a battery operated radio and there were house warming parties and card parties to go to. We even had our own party line phones, which operated on barbed wire fences.

At first John worked the land with horses and later purchased a tractor. He threshed with a threshing machine and a crew of ten men. In 1949 he got a combine, which made work easier and required a lot less help, but I still miss those threshing days. During the depression we faced some difficult times, when wheat sold for 19¢ a bushel, hogs were \$3.00 each, calves sold for \$6.00 each, five gallons of cream was \$1.75 and eggs sold for 8¢ a dozen. By 1940 prices were better and the future looked brighter.

In 1945 we built a new home. John dug the basement with a scraper (scrypa) drawn by two horses. Our old house was sold and moved into Holden and is presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kozaway. In 1946 we installed a Delco Power Plant, at a cost of \$500.00. Further improvements were made with the building of a new barn, installation of natural gas, electricity and running water, which made work easier and life more comfortable.

In 1967 we purchased a section of land in the Poe area which was later sold to the Holden Colony. In 1970 we bought John Chmil's land and was sold to Leo Suchy in 1974.

In spite of hard work, the years went by fast and before we knew it it was time to retire, which we did

in 1975. A year later we took a three week tour to Ukraine, and in May 1981, we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. John passed away in July 1981.

We have five children; Leonard attended school at Holmdene and Holden. In 1959 he married Nellie Dychkowski and they farm in the Mundare area. Their children are Michael and Wanda.

Eugene also attended school at Holmdene and Holden and Alberta College. He was employed by the post office in Vancouver for a time, and later worked in Fort McMurray and Edmonton. He presently resides in Vegreville.

Morris is an interior finishing contractor. He and his wife Marianne (Fedechko) and their daughter Tammy reside in Edmonton.

Our only daughter Kristine, attended Holden School and Alberta College. She married John Huly in 1969, and they have three lively daughters, Nola, Kyla and Tara. They live in Edmonton and are in the real estate business.

Dennis graduated from Holden High School and is currently living and employed in Edmonton as an interior systems mechanic. In 1976 he married Debbie Malick of Holden and they have one daughter, Jana.

Komarnisky, Mike A.

by Mike A. Komarnisky

Four brothers, Paul, Pete, Metro and Anton Komarnisky came to Canada from Galicia, Austria. Paul and Pete came in 1901 and settled north of Holden in the Borschiw district. Anton and Metro came in 1904 and settled south of Holden.



Komarnisky family. Back Row: Morris, Marianne, Michael, Leonard, Eugene, Kristine, John Huley, Debbie, Dennis. Front Row: Tammy, Wanda, Nellie, Nola, Tara, Kyla Huley. Sitting: Katherine holding Jana.



Mike and Hazel Komarnisky, 1979.

My father, Anton, got a homestead four and one-half miles south of Holden, a quarter section 24-48-16. My sister Agnes was born on the ship while my parents were en route to Canada. Father left the family at his brother Paul's while the men walked to Edmonton to find work and earn some money.

The following year he cut some logs and with neighbors' help, he built a log house with a sod roof, and settled his family in it. My mother mud-plastered the walls to keep the cold out. She also mud-plastered the floor to get it smooth and hard so it could be swept clean.

Then my father went to work again, first in Edmonton and then in Calgary. He bought a horse there and brought it home. He also bought a cow from a neighbor for milk for the family. Mother and father dug a patch for a garden and had vegetables for the winter. They also dug a well. He bought a steer and got harness for the horse and steer. That's how he plowed a few acres to put in wheat.

I, Mike, was born in 1906. My brother Paul was born in Austria in 1901. When I was two years old, my sister Jennie was born, later Stanley, Martin and Pete. Pete had a twin brother, John, who died in 1936 at the age of 17.



Mike and Hazel with their family, 1981.

As we were growing up, we attended Vermillion Valley School, walking 2½ miles. I remember one spring day — it was such a lovely day and we went barefoot. By evening, there was a couple of inches of snow, so we ran home to keep our feet warm.

William Campbell had a store west of here. That's where we took our eggs and got supplies, such as coal oil, soap, salt, sugar and other necessities.

Soon "Holden" started sprouting with the railway coming through. As the years passed, father bought some more land. In 1914, he built a new house with upstairs and floors. The family was growing up.

I remember one year — how I wanted to go to the Holden Sports Day! Father gave me 10¢ and I walked 4½ miles to town. It was a treat. But fire crackers were the thing in those days and I had to buy some. A few "bangs" and they were all gone. Boy, was I hungry all afternoon. I could have eaten a bear when I got home. I tell this to my children and grandchildren now. But they laugh at me and won't believe me.

I used to walk to barn dances four or five miles and father gave me 25¢. That certainly wasn't much compared to what the boys get now! But those were happy days.

It was open land then and I used to go for cows. It was miles before I could find them. We milked twenty-five cows by then. As more land was taken by homesteaders and fenced, bringing the cows home became easier.

By the late '20's, my two sisters and brother Paul were married. In 1931 I married Hazel Tchir of Radway, Alberta. Father gave me a quarter section 13-48-16 with a first payment of \$200.00 on it. Like my father before me, I had to cut logs, trim and haul them. Harry Tkaczyk's father (my wife's uncle), helped me build a two-room house. My mother and Paul's wife Julia, mud-plastered it inside and outside. Shingling the roof cost me \$25.00. The house was whitewashed with lime and it had a wooden floor.

We moved in that fall and with some boards made a table, and used apple boxes for chairs. It was cosy and everyone lived that way. But hard times were coming. Oh, those dirty thirties! Winds, blowing dust, no rain, crops were poor and so were we. Everything was cheap. I sold three market pigs for \$8.00, and one year I sold a wagon boxful of oats at Bruce elevator for \$6.00, so I didn't even have money enough for coffee — and I was a long way from home. Wheat was sold at 18¢ a bushel.

Our house burned down in 1941, in 40° below zero weather and we had to start all over again. But friends helped us with clothing for the kids, and I built another house.

We had two children, Marge born in 1933 and Jim in 1939.

Marge married Ole Johnson of Strome in 1954. They have three children, Mona, Daryl and Bradley. They live in Calgary where Ole is a superintendent in construction with Durapps Inc.

Jim married Josephine Kontek of Kopernick in 1960. They live in Edmonton. Jim is trucking with Independent Transit Mix. They have two girls, Charlene and Lori.

Hazel and I have five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

We have lived in Holden since 1963, in the house



Mike Komarnisky's feed mill.

that Crimmins owned. I sold the farm then and bought a feed mill from Mr. and Mrs. Bye, to semi-retire, I thought. But I worked harder than ever for eight years. In 1971, I sold the feed mill to Oscar Afseth and am now fully retired. My wife and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1981. My health is not too good, but with God's help, life must go on.

Komarnisky Mike M. (Max)

Max, second eldest in a family of five (Nick, Max, Maggie, Stella, Harry) was born in 1903 to Metro and Maria Komarnisky (nee Paskoski) in Hadinkowich in the Ukraine.

At the age of three years, along with his parents he arrived in Canada in 1905. They lived with



Metro and Maria Komarnisky family. Standing: Nick, Stella and Max. Seated: Metro, Harry, Maria, Maggie with husband Frank Psnak.

Metro's brother Paul, in the Borschiw area until later that year when they purchased a homestead south of Holden S.E. 18-48-16. Max attended Palmer School till the fourth grade, then stayed home to help with farming. He worked as a farm labourer for a number of years till he acquired the sum of \$123.20 with which he made a down payment on the N.W.¼ 15-48-16, in 1925. He finally purchased it from the C.P.R. for the total sum of \$1760.00.

Pauline Zacharchuk was born in 1903 also in Hadinkowich in the Ukraine. She immigrated to Canada with her brother Harry, in 1924 at the age of twenty-one years. They came to Calgary to live with their brother Paul and half brother Mike, who had come to Canada earlier and were working in the Drumheller Coal Mines. They came to visit the Paskoski residence at Holden which happened to be across the road from Metro Komarnisky. There Pauline Zacharchuk met Max Komarnisky. They were married in 1926 and resided with Max's parents for one and a half years. They then moved to their own home.

Their first son Emil was born in 1927, a daughter Mary was born two years later. Emil got sick and was taken to Edmonton hospital but passed away from a



Pauline and Max Komarnisky, 1926.

ruptured appendix in 1936 at the age of eight years. Their second son Walter was born in 1937.

Times were bad and Max spent the winter months working in the Drumheller Coal Mines. Bad luck came to them again when their daughter Mary was taken ill with tuberculosis. She passed away in 1946 at the age of seventeen.

Max and Pauline retired from farming in 1968 and moved into Holden. Max continued driving out to the farm almost everyday during the summer months as he loved driving a tractor, especially one with a cab.

In 1976 Max and Pauline celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on their original homestead, where they had spent most of their lives.

Max became ill in the spring of 1977 and passed away in 1978 one month short of his 75th birthday. Pauline lives alone in their home in Holden. In 1983 she will celebrate her 80th birthday.



Max and Pauline on their 50th Anniversary.

Komarnisky, Paul and Cassie (Ksenia)

by Steve P. Komarnisky

My parents, Paul born in 1862 and Cassie (Cebryk born in 1875) Komarnisky with three of their eldest children came to Canada from Austria in 1902, and settled on a homestead (NE½-34-50-16) in the Haight district. They brought with them some vegetable and grain seed from the old country. I cannot remember how we travelled but I do remember being kept warm with a newborn calf beside me. My father built a log house, which was plastered with clay and whitewashed. The first acre of land was spaded by hand and seeded. This produced enough food for us to survive the following winter.

The following year my father, Uncle Bilyk and a neighbor walked to Medicine Hat and worked on the railroad, \$1.00 for a ten hour day. They took enough food supplies with them for part of the journey, when



Paul and Ksenia Komarnisky.

they were about thirty miles from their destination they ran out. My uncle and the neighbor were getting weaker and couldn't walk any farther. My father went on, following the railroad. He had walked quite a distance when he noticed a paper bag. He picked it up and it was full of sandwiches, presumably thrown from the train. It was like manna from heaven! He walked back to where the others were and fed them.

That same year the Frank Slide took place, and my father was asked to help out. As you may have heard before, a little girl was found sitting on a rock, and he actually saw her. Those are some of my earliest recollections of my father.

My mother used to walk to Vegreville for the mail once a week, a distance of twenty miles. At one time, my father sent her a registered letter which contained \$10.00 (a lot of money in those days). The postman couldn't read too well and the letter was in the post office for two months before she finally received it.

Paul and Cassie had a family of eleven children; Sophie (Cheremshynski), Isaac (deceased), Steve, Pauline (Christian), Maggie (Panas), John (passed away in 1981), Peter (passed away in 1972), Annie (Motkoski), Andrew, Katherine (Kolodychuk) and Russel.

Paul passed away in 1950, and Cassie in 1941, both buried in the Borschiw Cemetery.

Komarnisky, Peter A.

by Joan Tkaczyk

Peter A. Komarnisky was born in 1916 at Holden. He and his twin brother, John were the youngest

children of the family of Anthony and Annie Komarnisky.

He attended Vermillion Valley School for eight years, one year at Radway School and completed his High School Education at Holden School.

Tragedy came at an early age; Peter's brother John was taken ill and passed away in his late teens.



Mary and Peter Komarnisky on their 25th Anniversary.

During the following depression years, Peter spent this time 'riding the rods' to Saskatchewan in search of harvest-time work which he found each year. The remaining time was spent farming at his home south of Holden. Upon receiving a quarter section of land from his father, he farmed this land, and together with his brother Stanley, purchased another quarter section from McDougal & Secord. The land was used for cattle grazing.

In 1943, Peter married Mary Shanley, twin daughter of Joseph and Jessie Shanley of Holden, at St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church south of Holden. Shortly after, they purchased the adjacent one quarter section from Peter's brother, Martin, and settled there in meagre housing common to depression times. Here they worked hard raising cattle and grain farming.

In 1949, Peter ordered two carloads of Douglas Fir lumber from B.C. and the house and the barn were completed in August of the same year. All this construction was run by the late Fred Laskoski. Neighbors were paid the going rate of 85¢ an hour for

their labor. Within several years, other buildings including a machine shop were built and modern conveniences — electricity and telephone were installed.

In 1957, another quarter section, two miles east, was purchased from Vern Pirie. This land was broken and cleared in one year. These years of hard work resulted in a successful cattle and grain operation. However, unfortunately in November, 1976, their barn burned to the ground; to this day the cause remains unknown. Peter immediately began work on a replacement and was most generously assisted by friends and neighbors of the community.

Three years later, in 1979, the entire farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sawers and Peter and Mary retired to a small 'hobby farm' on Highway 14, west of Holden where they are presently residing.

They have belonged to the South Holden St. Mary's Greek Catholic Parish all their married life, Peter helping with the recent construction of the Community Hall and Mary helping the parish ladies with preparations for various functions.

Their family consists of one daughter, Joan, who married Milton Tkaczyk, son of Fred and Julia Tkaczyk of Holden, in 1964. They have two sons Greg and Darren and reside in Edmonton.

Komarnisky, Peter, Anna and Family submitted by the Family

Peter Komarnisky, son of Pankow and Julia Komarnisky, was born in Husiatyn, Austria, now Western Ukraine. In 1902, the Komarnisky family immigrated to Canada and settled in the Holden district.



Peter and Anna Komarnisky.

In 1905, Peter married Anna Cebryk, daughter of Nancy and John Cebryk, also emigrants from Husiatyn, Austria. Prior to her marriage, Anna had worked at the Strathcona Hotel in Edmonton. During their first year of marriage, Anna lived with her parents while Peter worked for the C.P.R. Not finding the C.P.R. very profitable, he returned at the end of a year to begin farming east of Haight. Here they raised their family of eight children, Mike, Stella,



Back Row: Stella Kitt, Mike Komarnisky, Ida Dychkowski. Front Row: Olga Rurka, Mrs. Annie Komarnisky, Joe Komarnisky. Missing: Nick Komarnisky, Pearl Glenn, Tony Komarnisky (deceased), Albert Komarnisky.

Nick, Tony, Ida, Albert, Olga and Joe. All the children attended Myroslaw School. Peter passed away in 1928 at the age of 47. Anna managed, with the help of her family, to keep the land and cope with the difficulties of the depression years. In 1948, "Baba Komarnisky" moved into Holden. She passed away in 1968.

Mike P. Komarnisky — Like many others during the depression, Mike left the family farm temporarily to work on the C.P.R. and as a farm labourer in Saskatchewan. In 1942, Mike married Annie Rohatynski of Peno, Alberta. They continued farming the homeplace with Mike's mother until 1946. Then they moved to the Phillips' place 6½ miles north of Holden. With his cousin, Steve Komarnisky, Mike and Annie farmed the Phillips' place and adjoining land until 1964. They then bought and moved to the Job farm where Annie still lives. Mike passed away in 1978. They had four children. Stephania, her husband John Blades and their daughters Kristin and Michel live in Tofield. Susan married Richard Tymchak (deceased 1977). Susan and her children Wade and Jill reside north of Holden. Betty married



Mike P. Komarnisky family. Richard, Betty, John Blades, Stephania, Susan, Annie and Mike. Front: Michael and Kirsten Blades.

Don Gabrysh and they with their son Stephen live in Kelowna, B.C. Richard married Connie Angiers. They have two children, Sara and Michael. Rick and Connie have taken over the family farm.

Stella (Komarnisky) Kitt — Stella married William Kitt of Chipman and they farmed near Chipman from 1930 until 1946. In 1946, the Kitt family moved to Holden and bought the Rex Cafe. They and Olga (Komarnisky) and Peter Rurka operated the cafe until 1950. Bill and Stella continued working in Holden until their retirement to Edmonton in 1959, where they still live. They have three children, Anne, JoAnne, Lawrence. Lawrence lives in Nanaimo, B.C. Anne is married to Raymond Shanley (formerly of Holden) and living in Edmonton. They have two children. JoAnne married Mike Zacharchuk. They lived in Holden for a short time and then moved to Edmonton where they and their five daughters reside.

Nick Komarnisky — In 1936, Nick left the farm for Vancouver and the lumber camps of British Columbia. He is now retired and still residing in Vancouver.

Tony Komarnisky — See Tony Komarnisky story elsewhere in the book.

Pearl (Komarnisky) Glenn — Pearl married Jim Gardiner and moved to McCreary, Manitoba. They had three children, Joe, Shirley (Baker) and their two children live in Medicine Hat, Alberta; Iris (Gardiner) and Eugene Harper and their three daughters farm near McCreary, Manitoba; George and Chris (Pobran) live in Edmonton. Jim Gardiner passed away in 1962. Pearl is remarried to Don Glenn and they are living in McCreary, Manitoba.



Joe and Ida Dychkowski.

Ida (Komarnisky) Dychkowski — In 1939, Ida married Stanley Frebrowski of Mundare. Stanley and Ida farmed in the Mundare area until 1948 when Stanley passed away. In the fall of 1948, Ida and her two sons, Adolph and David moved to Holden. Adolph, his wife Phyllis (Semchyshen) and two sons, Gary and Gerald, live in Edmonton. Dave and Betty (Kiefiuk) also live in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Carmen and Theresa.

Ida married Joe Dychkowski from Mundare in 1951. They farmed west of Bruce until 1981 when they retired to Holden. They have one son, Dwayne, who lives in Calgary.

Albert Komarnisky — Albert remained at home until he completed high school in Holden. During W.W. II, he served in the Royal Canadian Navy. He married Olga Zrum from Fort Francis, Ontario. Albert worked as a boiler engineer with Texaco Refinery in Edmonton until his retirement in 1981 and he and his wife still reside in Edmonton. Their son Len, his wife Evelyn (Cooper) and two children live in St. Albert.

Olga (Komarnisky) Rurka — Olga married Peter Rurka of the Haight district. In partnership with the Kitts, they operated the Rex Cafe in Holden from 1947-1950. From Holden, they moved to Edmonton and then to Calgary where they still reside. Peter is employed as an auditor with Husky Oil. They have one son, Brian.

Joe Komarnisky — Joe attended school in Myroslaw, Togo and Holden. He served in the Royal Canadian Army from 1943-1946, one year of which was Occupational Force duty in Germany. After the war, Joe returned to help on the family farm. He married Stella Howrish of Holden in 1949. Joe and



Stella and Joe Komarnisky with their sons, Gordon (left) and Greg.

Stella farmed northeast of Holden until 1958 and then they moved to Holden and Joe joined Komarnisky Farm Equipment. In 1962, the business acquired the Ford automobile dealership and then in 1963 had a change of name to the present Beaver Motors Ltd. Joe and Stella have two sons, Gordon and Greg. Greg lives in Edmonton. Gordon, his wife, Donna (Marchinkoski), and daughters Tara and Rae Ann live in Holden where Gord is in business with his dad at Beaver Motors Ltd.

Komarnisky, Steve P.

by Steve P. Komarnisky

I was born in Tarnopol, Austria in 1899, son of Paul and Cassie Komarnisky. As a child I immigrated to Canada with my parents in 1902.



In front of Holden Post Office, 1946. Sitting: Margaret Sanderson, Gloria Komarnisky, Audre Liden, Elaine McLean. Standing: Maxine Blake.

During World War I, I was called to the army. I was to wait for further instructions, and in the meantime the war was over. I was too old to serve in the Second World War, but served on a finance committee, which was my contribution.

Sandra and I were married in 1929 and settled in Holden, where over the years we were engaged in several businesses and also did some farming. We retired in 1964, travelled for a while and settled in Edmonton in 1965. We bought a hobby farm in the Westlock area which we farmed for ten years, but continued to reside in Edmonton.

We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1979.

We were blessed with three children: Gloria (Mrs. Frank Metzger), a retired teacher, who lives in Thousand Oaks, California. Ronald is in real estate and lives in Palm Desert, California. Sylvia (Mrs. Igor Lozynsky) is a special teacher (psychologist) who resides in Delburne, Alberta.

Komarnisky, Tony

by Anne (Kormarnisky) Tymchak

Tony, was born in the Haight district, son of Peter and Annie Komarnisky. He attended Myroslaw School. As a young man he worked around the district, helping farmers, and later in a hardware store in Holden.



Tony Komarnisky and Bill Mulowka.

I was born in Leduc, Alberta, daughter of Antonina and Andrew Block, who came from Poland in the early 1900's. In 1945 Tony and I were married.

In 1943 he built a building on main street, where he bought eggs and turkeys for the Alberta Poultry Producers. He named the business Alberta Poultry Marketers. In 1946 he sold this business to Sam Black, and Tony and I bought the Rex Cafe from Ada Prozny. Tony's next business venture was a men's wear store, which he established in 1947, and later sold to Mike Sawchuk. He then worked as Village Foreman, when the luxury of running water came to Holden. About this time he also purchased some land east of Holden, which he rented out. In 1940 he built a house on 49 Ave., where we lived.

Tony passed away suddenly in September of 1962.

We have one son, Barry, who is married to Monica Chromik, of Daysland. They have two children; Tessa and Chad. They live on a farm east of Holden (W½-14-49-15).

Komarnisky, Walter and Eileen Family by Walter Komarnisky

I was born in 1937. My parents are Pauline and Max Komarnisky. In my early years I attended Vermillion Valley School. When the school closed down in 1950, I furthered my education at Holden School for two more years, then quit to help with farming



Walter and Eileen, 1959.

when Dad had a heart attack. I enrolled at Chicago Vocational School in Edmonton the following winter where I completed a welding course. Then I returned to farming.

Eileen, the youngest in a family of eight children of Tony and Josie Milimaka, was born in 1938. She attended Holden School until grade ten when she quit to stay home. She worked part-time at Zane's Purity Store until she was accepted at the Royal Bank in Holden in 1956.

We were married in 1959 at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Holden. The wedding reception was held on the farm of my parents, where a platform was built and a large tent erected for the occasion. We lived in Holden where I was employed at the lumber yard and Eileen at the bank. In the spring of 1960 we moved to the farm to live with my parents and to help with the farming operation.

Our first son, Wade, was born in 1961. He attended school in Holden, from which he graduated in 1979. Wade had his heart set on the world of aviation so he enrolled at Mount Royal College in Calgary and completed his flying in Camrose. He is presently a flying instructor at Fort McMurray.

Our second son, Kevin, was born in 1962. He also attended school in Holden from which he graduated in 1981. He is presently employed in Edmonton as a welder, but plans to return to fulltime farming in the near future.



Wade, Walter, Tina, Eileen and Kevin Komarnisky.

Our third child, Tina, was born in 1965. She is attending Holden School and will graduate in the spring of 1983. Tina wants to further her education but has not decided as yet which career she will choose.

For extra spending money and need of machinery, I worked at Inuvik, N.W.T. for three winters with Ryalta Industries, hauling twenty-two ton loads of fuel on sleighs, to oil rigs and seismic camps, and snowplowing sixty miles of roads which were lakes and rivers frozen to three feet in depth. This work was done with temperatures in the -45°C with a 1200 Case tractor which was a first at that time. Eileen looked after the cattle and chores on the farm with the aid of a hired girl, Leona Mahowich.

In 1967 Eileen went back to work, part-time at the Royal Bank until 1978 when she took a full-time position as office assistant at the Alberta Wheat Pool in Holden where she is still employed. I am a full time farmer now in the summer, in winter I spend my time playing Oldtimer hockey and ice fishing.

Kondrat, Joe and family

Joe Kondrat was seven when his parents Albert and Mary (Lupino) immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1910. They settled on a farm in the Kerriemuir area and lived there for thirteen years where two more children Annie (Stokowski) and Steve were born. Farming was done with horses and during the winter months Albert worked in a mine at Lethbridge. In 1923 the drought years forced the family to move to Winthrop, Iowa. Here again farming was done with horses. This was fine until Joe nearly drowned when the Sounding Creek flooded their farm and forced the move in 1930 to Holden, Alberta. Here Joe met his future wife, Anna Hawrylyzn, who had arrived from the Ukraine with her mother Tillie and two of her sisters, Kay (Magoski) and Nancy (Dublonko). They had come to join their father Mike and her other sister Mary (Chomik), who had preceded them in 1926 to start a homestead. Mike farmed a quarter section with few cultivated acres.

Anna worked as a maid for Olyans in Edmonton. Mr. Olyan had a brother in Holden who owned a store and knew Joe Kondrat. Through this connection Joe and Anna met.

Joe and Anna married in 1931 and lived with the Kondrat family over four years. This is where their first three children were born, Josephine, Edward and Stephen. Joe and Anna moved to a farm in 1935 on which the Longridge school was built, (S $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-49-15). They lived in a granary for awhile, all water had to be hauled from the neighbour's place, Loney's. In the fall with the help of relatives and friends, Joe managed to build a house that the family could move into before winter. The two small rooms were heated with a cook stove. Later that year Joe drilled a well on the 318 acre farm, forty acres of

which were cultivated. The following year Joe broke thirty acres with a John Deere "D" tractor that the family had brought with them from the U.S.A. In spite of this, the harrowing, discing and seeding was still done with horses. A couple of years later Joe purchased his own Twin-City tractor, and that was a great step towards making farming easier.

Things started to improve in the early forties. A 1935 Plymouth was purchased from George Black which provided a tremendous improvement in transportation. Joe also added about double the square footage to the house to accommodate two additional children, Bernice and Ted. Then came a major setback. In 1942 Joe had surgery and the tremendous farm load had to be handled by Anna and the older children.

In the years following, Joe with the help of neighbours, friends and relatives built the farm buildings. Adding to modernization was the rural telephone, and heating was upgraded to a coal heater. Lighting was still provided by kerosene lamps until electricity was installed in 1948.

During the early years visiting friends or relatives, attending weddings and playing a few card games was the entertainment. Another outing was going to church on Sundays. In later years Longridge school provided not only an education but many evenings of pleasure, and an annual school picnic. Their community life was very good prior to the days of the T.V. set.

Joe and Anna retired in 1965 and moved to Edmonton. They sold their farm to their oldest son, Edward. Joe and Anna bought their house at 9928-77 Street in 1966, and presently reside there.

Joe and Anna have five children, sixteen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Their oldest daughter Josephine is married to Ed Tuchsén. They live in Edmonton and have a family of three daughters and one son, Denise, Lee Anne, Beverly and Bruce who all live in Edmonton. Denise has one son.

The oldest son Edward married Deanne Rivey and they live in Calgary with their four children: Giselle, Theresa, Janet and Roger.

Stephen married Diane Potter and they live in Calgary with their four children: Dwayne, Melinda, Melody and Darren.

Bernice married Jack Armstrong and she lives in Edmonton with her two boys, Gary and Kevin.

Theodore (Ted) married Doreen Caron and they live in Sherwood Park with their two girls, Kyla and Kimberly.

Korble, Frank and Marion by Marion Korble

The name Haight brings only the happiest memories to the Korbles. In 1940 it was a hamlet consisting of three grain elevators, three grain company houses, two general stores with living quarters, a station building in which the section foreman lived with his family, and a bunkhouse for the railroad workers. Every residence had a bountiful vegetable garden and beautiful flowers growing nearby.



Ronald and Marilyn Korble.

The community hall, about one quarter mile from the hamlet, served as a schoolroom when Marion began teaching in 1940. Thirty-two lively bright eyed children, in grades one to seven, more than compensated for the lack of a regular classroom. They were friendly and enthusiastic. We spent many happy hours together.

The register includes the following names: students' names in parenthesis



Lillian Slywka, Natalia Skorchid, Barbara Hrabec and Bernadette Baxter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kozak (Evelyn, Andrew) Frank Kolodychuk (Bernice, Donald) Peter Krezanoski (Louise), Wm. Nebozenko (Lois, Peter, Lawrence, Sophie), John Baxter (Bernadette), John Tokar (Dora), Peter Kolodychuk (Bernard, Angela), Wm. Lucas (John, Peter, Michael), Peter Slywka (Leona, Eddie), Martin Slywka (Ann, Edward), Wm. Slywka (Phyllis, Lillian) John Hrabec (Barbara, Martha, Susie) Skorkid (Olga, Emily, Natalie) Wm. Shyba (Orest), Steve Kolodychuk (Evelyn, Ernest), Frank Pidborozny (Elsie, Carl).

In 1941 Frank Korble took over duties at the U.G.G. elevator. He and Marion were married in 1941 and lived in Haight until he left for military service in 1942. In 1946 they returned with their son Ronald. In 1947, a daughter Marilyn was born. Frank was transferred to Spedden, Alberta, in 1950. They have made their home in Edmonton since 1951.

Korpan, Kyrylo and Mary

by Katherine (Korpan) Komarnisky

My father, Kyrylo, son of Mike and Magdalina Korpan, was born in 1882. He came to Canada with his parents and two brothers from Borschiw, Ukraine, settling in the Borschiw area of Alberta. In 1905 he married Hennrietta Kubin. Unfortunately Hennrietta passed away in 1910. They had two daughters, Nancy and Annie. Nancy married Walter



Mary and Kyrylo Korpan.

Lukawiecki of Holden. They had two children, Marion (Bober) and Albin. Annie married Jack Andrychuk. They had five children; Jeannette (Andrias), Helen (Ruttle), Phyllis (Mitchell), Albert and Margaret (Lakusta).

In 1911 my father married again, to Mary Lukawiecki. She was born in 1890 and came to Canada from Warsaw, Poland in 1909. To this union were born ten children; Helen married Paul Cheremshynski (see Cheremshynski history), Pauline passed away in 1928. I (Katherine) married John

Komarnisky (see John Komarnisky history). William lives in Vegreville, Jean married Syd. Powley. They live in Vegreville and have two children, Sylvia (Micklich) and Elmer. Emil married Sophie Kuly. Their children are Arlene (Hrynyk) and Karen (Wood). Albina married Steve Chomiak. They reside at North Burnaby, B.C. and have two children; Gladys (Haddon) and William. Olga married Peter Kuly of Vegreville, and they have four children; Alvin, Virginia (McLachlan), Richard and Lorraine (Yakemchuk). Lloyd resides in Vegreville. Lillian married Fred Halibut of Holden (see Halibut history).

The family attended Leachville School and Moscow School to receive grade nine and ten. In the summer we walked three and a half miles to school and in the winter we went by horse and cutter, I remember one teacher in particular, Mr. Andrew Yuhem. He taught me in Moscow School and eighteen years later taught my sons, Leonard and Eugene in Holden.

I have fond recollections of the early days; the games we played, the old log house, the sweet smell of bread mother baked in the outdoor oven and the good taste of home churned butter, best of all I liked the school picnics with wiener roasts, cake, lemonade and home made ice cream.

My father passed away in 1973 and mother in 1960.

I am proud to be a descendant of my Ukrainian parents and grandparents, who pioneered this country and helped make it what it is today.

Korpan, Mike and Magdalina

**by Katherine (Korpan) Komarnisky
(granddaughter)**

Mike Korpan married Magdalina Kisiel in 1878, and in 1898 they immigrated to Canada, along with their three sons, Joseph, Kyrylo and Elias. They



Man at left is Mike Korpan.

came like many other European people at that time, with the hope for a better life for their family.

They settled in the Borschiw area, (so named because most of the settlers were from Borschiw, Ukraine). They brought with them trunks filled with clothing, homespun spreads, embroidered linen, sheepskin coats, feather quilts, pillows, holy pictures, a sickle, flail, scythe and other hand tools. My grandfather built a small house which was plastered with clay, whitewashed and had a thatched roof, which contained a stove made of clay, with a cast iron top for cooking. For baking bread there was an oven made out of clay, and on the back of this stove was a warm place for children to sleep. For a chicken house, they had a dugout with a sod roof, and fences were made of willows interwoven between rails.

At first they worked small tracts of land and planted wheat by hand. The grain was cut with a scythe, the sheaves were tied by hand and threshed with a flail. Wheat was ground by two stones called "zorna". For supplies my grandfather had to walk to Strathcona, carrying them in a sack on his back. When he had earned enough money he bought horses and a wagon.



Magdalina Korpan aged 90 and her great grandson Ronald Korpan in 1943.

As the area became settled there was a need for church and school. My grandfather, was one of the pioneers instrumental in building a church, which was called St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Borschiw, Alberta. He also helped organize and build Moscow School.

My grandparents helped other pioneers get settled, by providing them with shelter until their own houses were built.

Mike (1853-1921) and Magdaline (1853-1946) Korpan are buried in Borschiw Cemetery.

Kowalchuk, Peter

by Joyce Kowalchuk

Peter, the son of John and Josie Kowalchuk, was born and raised in the Haight area. In the fall of 1926 Peter purchased one quarter of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, six miles south of Haight. In 1929 he married Lena Suchy from the Borschiw area, who was the daughter of Harry and Nancy Suchy. Together they worked hard to build a log house and break enough land to farm and make a living, but this wasn't enough as money was very scarce.



L. to R.: Virginia, Marion and Evelyn Kowalchuk.

In 1936 Peter bought a rig for drilling water wells. He did this from 1936-1968. Today many people in the area are very grateful to Peter; they enjoy the water they have for their farm yard as well as their homes.

Lena cooked for weddings and other family gatherings for many years. Along with this, Peter and Lena raised four children, Virginia, Evelyn, Marion and Leonard. The children attended Poe School which was a three mile walk from home.

Virginia married Mike Szott of Daysland, and they farmed there for several years. They had three children, Marvin, Marlene and Sherry. Later they moved to Calgary, and Virginia presently lives in Blackfalds.

Evelyn passed away at the age of eleven in 1943, due to a fire on the farm.



Golden Wedding of Lena and Pete Kowalchuk 1979.

Marion married Peter Kozoway of Mundare and they lived in Holden. They had three children, Linda, Patsy and Janet. Later they moved to Edmonton where they still reside.

Leonard was born in Holden, in 1937. He is the youngest of the family, attended school at Poe and later finished his education in Holden. Then he attended Calgary Technology School. After one year there, Leonard worked for Montreal Engineers on the Brazeau Dam. After working there for two years, all the preliminary drawings were completed so Leonard returned home to farm with his father.

In 1963, Leonard married Joyce, daughter of Walter and Nellie (Hawryluk) Kitt. Then he went to work for the National Grain Company in Holden. Later he was moved to Marwayne where he received all his training. The following year they moved to Hairy Hill and there he became manager. They lived there for three years, and then he was transferred to Lavoy where he spent the next seven years.

In 1974 Peter and Lena retired, and moved to Holden, where they still reside.

Leonard and Joyce then moved back to the family farm, and Leonard continued to work. He worked at Mundare for seven years and then was transferred to Holden where he presently is buying grain for the Cargill Grain Company and farms as well.

Leonard and Joyce were blessed with four children, Kim, Michelle, Laurie and Wesley. All the children presently attend school in Holden.



Kim, Wesley, Laurie, Michelle. Seated: Leonard and Joyce Kowalchuk.

Kozack, Steve and Barbara

Steve, youngest son of Jacob and Caroline Kozack of Kingman, Alberta, was born in 1916. He received his education at Kingman School, and assisted on the farm throughout the thirties. At a very young age he began to develop his musical talents, first on the violin and later on the clarinet and saxophone, being inspired by the late Joe Johnson, an Edmonton orchestra leader of some local fame. He and his brother formed a band which was in great demand in the thirties, and they often played in school houses for fifty cents a night and free lunch.

In November of 1940, he married Barbara Ogrodnick, daughter of Michaelina and Dmetro of the Haight district. Barbara received her schooling at Thule, a rural district near Haight. As a young girl she enjoyed performing at local concerts. Barbara was the first carnival queen to be crowned at Borshchiw Hall (1939), and she also sang in the church choir from an early age. She was proud to be one of the Trident Choir members when a record of Christmas carols was cut in 1969.

Shortly after their marriage, Barbara and Steve moved to Calgary where he worked in a steel plant.



Steve and Barbara Kozack, 1970.

Later he worked in the mines at Drumheller and Round Hill, returning to the farm at Kingman in 1944.

In 1950 the family moved to land purchased from Steve Kolodychuk near Haight. As soon as they were settled Steve worked as a road maintenance man for nine years. Barbara became the first president of the F.W.U.A., a new organization in the district. She has resumed her role in the parish which has been continuous to date.

In 1964 Steve became employed at the Camrose steel plant and the responsibility of raising the family, now five, and the maintaining of mixed farming operations fell on Barbara, except for the weekends when Steve would return.

In the district Steve put his musical talents to work. At various times he played with the Rhythm Makers, Sadownyk's and Johnnie's Serenaders, as often as three times a week.

Their Children: Reynold and Maxine attended school in Kingman, Haight and Ryley, while the younger children attended Ryley School.

Reynold, born in 1941, is a talented musician, and has had his own band for many years. He is an assessment inspector for the Alberta Government and lives at Leduc. He has two daughters, Christine and Anita.

Maxine, born in 1945 took secretarial training at Alberta College in Edmonton where she met and married Raymond Baron, a welder. They live at Tofield with their two children Richard and Deanna.



Kozack family. Back Row: Morley, Linda and Jack. Front Row: Maxine, Steve, Barbara, Reynold.

Maxine is at present school librarian at C. W. Sears School. Ray is employed in Edmonton, and commutes daily.

Linda, born in 1950 took various jobs in Edmonton and Montreal and is presently living in Victoria, B.C.

Jack born in 1956 graduated from Ryley High School and remained at home where he has taken over the farming operations from his parents.

Morley, born in 1958, graduated from Ryley High School and has been employed since with Alberta Government Telephones.

Kozdrowski, John

John, son of Harry and Katherine Kozdrowski of Chipman, Alberta, moved to a farm (S ½ 6-50-16-W4) one mile north of Poe. Since there was no house on that land, John built a log, mud plastered, one room house. The inside was whitewashed.

In 1935, he married Jean, daughter of Anton and Mary Kubin. John drilled wells for a few years. He also had a threshing outfit and did custom work. Jean stayed home with the children and did the chores. She remembers selling eggs at 5¢ a dozen and five gallons of cream for \$2.50.

In 1944 they purchased S ½ 19-51-16-W4, five miles north of Haight. This is where Jean was born and attended school at Togo. John was also renting a half a section at the time. It was during the war, so John and Jean had to work nine hundred and sixty acres by themselves.

In 1949 they moved to Ryley, but still farmed some land. John was ice maker for the skating and curling rinks for a number of years. He likes fishing. Jean worked part time at the post office and was the first woman to serve on the town council at Ryley.



Kozdrowski family. Back Row: Stan, John, Walter. Front Row: Mary Kubin, Vic, Jean, Rose.

John and Jean have three children, Walter, Stan and Rose. Walter married Betty Weder. Their children are Lyle and Lonnie. They live in Lac La Biche where Walter works for the Treasury Branch. Stan married Bernice Podruzny. Their three children are Dianne, Barry and Robin. They live in Ryley and Stan works for Watrous in Edmonton. Rose married Ernie Lansdown and they have two children, Cheryl and Cheri. They live in Edmonton where Ernie works for the Treasury Branch. The children all attended Togo and Ryley schools.

Kozdrowski, Roman

by Anna (Kozdrowski) Manchur

In the late 19th century the Austrians, Poles, and Ruthenians were immigrating in droves to the Americas, many choosing Canada as their destination. Between 1890 and 1900, Alberta received large numbers of these settlers. Grandfather Svan Kozdrowski, too had made plans. Grandfather sold his house and one and a half morgs of land and completed his arrangements to leave Slobodka Dzurynska, Galicia, Austria for Canada. It must have been a traumatic experience to leave friends and relatives to travel to the unknown, across the sea with a family of five, the youngest not quite two years old. In early 1900 they arrived in Edmonton, their final destination. Not to impose on his friends unduly, he built a small house on the quarter which he filed for as his homestead in 1900. It was located eight kilometers northeast of the



Roman Kozdrowski feeding his horse.

village of Chipman. In 1904 at the age of 57, Grandfather was granted his naturalization.

In due course his children married. My father, Roman, third oldest married Maria Jasinki in 1906, and moved to his homestead eight kilometers east of Chipman.

In 1929, to meet the needs of his increasing family, my father, Roman Kozdrowski, bought four quarters of land at Poe. The family dwelling, on the same quarter of land as Poe School, was just immediately south of Poe elevator and C.N. station. Having moved from Chipman with a big Case tractor and a large threshing machine, he had done much threshing for his neighbors in the district. Gardening and landscaping were of great interest to my father. My parents raised a family of ten children, six boys and four girls. They had twenty-nine grandchildren.

The eldest son, Frank, married Carrie Klask and they now reside in Kelowna. The second eldest Josephine married Stanley Kolodychuk, they have both passed away. The third eldest, Mike, married Josie Tchrowski. They now reside in Ardrossan. I, (Ann), was the fourth child and married Michael Manchur (see their story). The fifth eldest, Leo, married Anne Pooke, they reside in Edmonton. The sixth child, Sophie, married Harry Michlich. She died in 1954. The seventh eldest Paul, married Mar-



Mary Kozdrowski, Katherine and Nick.

ianne Stoltenkamp, and they now reside in Edmonton. The eighth eldest child Katherine, married Mike Chupka, they also reside in Edmonton. The ninth eldest Nick, married Rose Motkowski, they live in Kelowna. The youngest child, Val married Janet McCalluk, and they reside in Raymond, Alberta.

In 1936, my mother, Mrs. Maria Kozdrowski died suddenly of a heart attack at the young age of forty-nine. Following mother's passing, Father sold all his property and chose to retire in Kelowna, where he passed away in 1952.

Kozoway, Harry and Katherine

Harry Kozoway was born in Malnow, Western Ukraine, in the year 1903. As a young man of twenty-four, he left his family in Europe and on the advice of his uncle, Nick Zuk, came to Canada. Harry lived with his uncle in Elna, Manitoba from 1928 to 1930, earning a living by working on the railroad. Traveling further west, he made his way to the Bruce district where he worked on a farm until 1932.

Katherine (Kryska) Kozoway was born in 1896, and also originated from the village of Malnow in Western Ukraine. Leaving her parents and three sisters, Katherine, at age twenty four, ventured out on her own with plans to emigrate to Canada. Her family lived the remainder of their lives in the Ukraine. Arriving in Canada in 1921, Katherine lived with her uncle, Alex Kryska and family for one year until her marriage to Andrew Halabut. Their hard work enabled them to buy same land, and in 1924 they began farming. Only six years later, Andrew passed away.



Harry and Katherine Kozoway.

In the autumn of 1932, Harry Kozoway married Katherine, and together they farmed about eight miles south of Bruce, buying more land as time went on. During the early 1950's Harry was able to bring his mother, Pelahia Kozoway, to Canada where she lived until her passing in 1960. Harry and Katherine continued farming for over thirty years until 1963 when they sold their farm and retired to live in the village of Holden.



Drilling for water on the Kozoway farm, mid 1930's (in the background: their house and first car). Steve Rutar and helper drilling, Katherine and Harry Kozoway.

Krawiec — Sopiwnyk Family

Stanley and Mary Krawiec and their daughter Eugenia (Jenny) left the village of Mielec, near Krakow, Poland and immigrated to Canada in 1930. They arrived in the Bruce district with high hopes of starting a new successful life at farming. The first year was one of disappointment and sadness for the Krawiec family.



Mary, Eugenie and Stanley Krawiec.

Through a land agent they invested their life savings of 300 dollars into a quarter section of farm land. Shortly after they discovered that it was condemned and even worse, the down payment could not be recovered.

A second daughter, Stella, was born in August. By working for farmers in the area the Krawiec's managed to survive the first winter. In the spring, however, Stanley had an attack of appendicitis and died before he could be operated on at the Viking Hospital.

Mary and her two little daughters then moved to a house near Holden where they lived through the first part of the depression with the help of neighbours and friends. Mary met Mike Sopiwnyk who farmed south of Holden and later they were married.



Mike Sopiwnyk.

Mike immigrated to Canada from the village of Horodok in Ukraine in 1925. He arrived in Whitlaw, Southern Alberta. There with the help of a relative he got a job on the railroad at 25¢ an hour. During the winter he worked in Banff and helped build the Banff Springs Hotel. Later he took a job in a lumber camp at Snowshoe B.C., near Prince George.

In 1929 he came to Edmonton and was able to buy a ½ section of land at Holden from Tom White. During the depression in the 30's he was able to pay off his debt through hard work and perseverance. He became a respected and prosperous farmer.

Even though conditions were tough, there was time for socializing with their neighbours through church picnics and barn dances, some of which were held in the Sopiwnyk's hip roof barn. One of the main attractions for the family was the annual Bruce Stampede.



Orest and Jenny Bilyk and family, with Mike and Mary Sopiwnyk.

When Jenny and Stella were old enough, they attended the Vermillion Valley School and later Holden High. Their transportation to school was by horseback in the summer and cutter in the winter.



Walter and Stella Baydala and family.

It is interesting to note that Stella returned to teach at the Vermillion Valley School following her graduation from University.

In 1954 Stella married Walter Baydala, a pharmacist, and they are now living in Edmonton. Their family consists of two daughters, Lola and Angie and one son, Marlo.

Following her graduation from high school, Jenny worked for the Royal Bank, then at Foran Agencies in Holden, later at the University of Alberta. In 1954, she married Orest Bilyk and they live in Edmonton. They have four sons, Wayne, Brian, Randy, and David, one daughter, Wanda, and one daughter-in-law, Marlo, who is married to Wayne.

The grandchildren spent many happy days at the farm.

Mike Sopiwnyk passed away in 1981, at the age of 81 years. Mary is still very active and resides in her home at Holden.

Kruger, Frederick

In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kruger and one son Albert and a daughter Emily, who later married and became Mrs. Fred Koetke Sr., came from Germany to homestead on a quarter section NW



Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kruger.

32-47-16. Their first house was built of logs. After a short time lumber was hauled from Wetaskiwin for a new house. That house is still being lived in, having been remodelled into a modern home. After the town of Holden came into existence, grain and cattle were sold there and lumber was hauled from there.

Frederick Kruger passed away in 1908 and his wife, Louise, passed away during the summer of 1914. The land was acquired by Albert Kruger through his mother's will. Albert married Miss Alvina Heyn, in 1912 who came from Germany that same year.

To this union one daughter, Anna, and two sons Eric and William were born. The children grew up on



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kruger.

the farm and attended Palmer school. Anna met and married Sam Thomas and they live on their farm near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. They have one son and one daughter.

Albert Kruger passed away in 1948 and Alvina Kruger in 1951. The original quarter and other land was inherited by sons, Eric and William.

Eric and William farmed in the Holden area until 1964 when they sold that farm to Arthur Gibson of Holden and bought one near Camrose.

Eric Kruger passed away suddenly of a severe heart attack in 1978. William still lives in the Camrose area where he has a hobby farm.



Calvin Johnson and Eric Kruger.

Kryszka, Oleksa (Alex)
by Diane (Kryska) McNeil

Alex Kryszka was born in 1875 in the village of Malnow, Western Ukraine, which at that time was under Austrian rule. He married Anne Marko, of the same village in the year 1899. She was born in 1878, the daughter of Joannes and Catharina Marko. Alex and Anna lived in Malnow for four years during which time their first two children, Ann and John were born.

With their children, who were only three and one years of age, they came to Canada in July of 1903. They arrived in Strathcona (now south Edmonton) along with many other immigrants, and their first experience of living in Canada was under a tent flap. But the long trip was to take its toll, for during the journey the baby, John, contacted measles. He became very ill and died within a few days of their arrival.

After applying for homestead entry in Edmonton in 1903, the family travelled to the north Holden district to stay with their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Pidoborozny. Alex went on ahead to the Kopernick district to catch a first glimpse of their homestead, (SE 20-47-15-W4) and by November of 1903 had

built their first home. It was a one-room log house, mud plastered, with a sod roof. The family waited until spring before taking up residence on their land, at which time they were taken there by the Pidoboroznys. At one point while crossing a mud-bottom creek they had climbed off the wagon to lighten the load, for fear of getting stuck. They led the oxen across and continued on their journey safely. On May 25, 1904 they arrived on the homestead.

The beginning was hard. Alex worked on the railroad in Medicine Hat during that summer, and by the end of the year had three head of cattle and broke, and cropped one acre of land. The neighbours worked together sharing their oxen and ploughs. Alex and Anna had brought with them from Europe a millstone (z'orna), and it was used by the neighbourhood to mill grain into flour. Two or three times a year one of the neighbours would hitch oxen and wagon and bring supplies back for the community, travelling about fifty five miles to reach the nearest town, which was Wetaskiwin.

As the family grew in number, they built and made improvements. During the four years from 1903 to 1907 they had succeeded in breaking fourteen acres of land and cropping ten of those acres. They



In front of Kryszka home about 1919. Standing: Katherine Kalowski, Ann Malick holding son John, Dave Malick, Mike, Harry and Fred Kryszka. Sitting: Panko Kalowski, daughter Mary on knee, Alex Kryszka, Anna Kryszka holding son Steve, Dave Kryszka. Standing: Nancy Marko holding daughter Helen. Front Standing: Catherine and Peter Kryszka.



The A. Kryska homestead. Built in 1903 to 1907. Picture taken in 1951.

had thirteen cattle, two hogs, two horses, and had built a log stable, log granary, log hen house and had dug a water well. The cost of these buildings and well was \$300.00. By 1907 a new house was also built. This one was a larger three-room log house (14' x 36') with a thatched straw roof, at a cost of \$250.00. The logs used were from nearby bushes and were chopped down by hand, debarked and shaped.

With the larger cattle herd, keeping a constant water supply was beginning to be a problem, especially in the winter months. This was solved in about 1918 by the drilling of a water well, which was one of the first attempted in the district. Also, in about 1918 all the farm buildings were remodelled by replacing the thatched roofs with new cedar shingles. In addition to shingles the house was also redone with new six-inch cedar siding, and is still standing to this day, over 75 years later.

The family was active in community activities, and with the construction, and sat on the boards of both the Ascension Greek Catholic Church and Unity School. The Kryszka home was also the community post-office between 1915 and 1924.

As time went on the quarter sections (SW-21-47-15-W4; NE 17-47-15-W4) were purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway. The family worked these lands for many years with the children helping, as they grow older.

In 1942, Anna Kryszka handed the land down to her son, Peter, and in 1953 moved to the village of Holden. Peter had purchased a house for her on 4808-50 Ave; which had been owned by Alex Pooke. They renovated the house, installed a sewage system, and piped in running water. Anna enjoyed living in Holden and remained there until her passing in 1958, at the age of 80. She had eleven children; Ann, John, Harry, Mary, Mike, Fred, Dave, Catherine, Peter, Steve and Walter. The following, very briefly, describes their life events.

The oldest daughter, Ann, born in 1900, married Dave Malick in 1918. Ann and Dave farmed south of the Kopernick area for a few years and then moved to Edmonton. In 1942 they travelled east to Toronto and later purchased a farm in Bolton, Ontario where they lived for many years. Their final move at retirement was to Orangeville, Ontario where they lived until their passing; Dave in 1970, and Ann in 1972. Nine children were born of this marriage; John, Joe, Sophie, Mary, Fred, Pete, Helen, Alice and Janet.

Following Ann, John was born in 1902. He died in infancy after contacting measles, in 1903.

Harry, born in 1904, was their first Canadian-born child. He met a tragic death, which occurred during a duck hunting trip in 1923. He was nineteen years of age.

Mary, born in 1906, was also to meet a tragic death, during a prairie fire in 1909. She was only three years old.

Mike was born in 1907, and married Kay Musat in 1935. They lived in Edmonton where Mike worked as a painter until his retirement. He passed away in 1976. They have two children, Melvin and Jeannette.

Fred was born in 1910, and married Mary Tkaczyk. They farmed in the Kopernick area for a few years on NE 17-47-15-W4. They sold the land and moved to Vancouver where Fred worked as a welder until his passing in 1954. They have one daughter, Doris.

Dave was born in 1912, and served in the army during World War II. In 1942, he married Katherine Rosichuk. They lived in Edmonton where Dave worked as a barber and then as a salesman for many years, until his passing in 1977. They have one daughter, Rita.

Catherine was born in 1914, and married John Scabar in 1937. They lived in Edmonton where John worked as a boiler maker. They have three children; Alice, David and Robert.

Peter was born in 1916, and married Kathleen Kiziak in 1944. (See family history of Peter Kryska.)

Steve was born in 1918, and served in the army during World War II. He married Muriel Stewart in 1945. They live in Edmonton, where Steve had worked as a salesman until his retirement. They have four children; Dan, David, Sherril and Stewart.

Walter was born in 1920, and married Lil Hlewka in 1951. They lived in Vegreville where Walter worked as a boiler maker until his passing in 1974. They have four children; Alexandra, Wendy, John and Jim.

Kryska, Peter

by Diane (Kryska) McNeil

Peter Kryska was born in 1916 and raised in the

Kopernick area, the ninth in a family of three girls and eight boys (see family history of father, Alex Kryszka). He attended Unity School, and from the time he was old enough to lend a hand, he worked on the family farm. Peter was interested in making farming his life, so in 1942 he took over the management of the farm from his mother, Anna Kryszka. His younger brother, Walter, helped to work the fields, for the first few years, as it was a twelve horse set-up requiring two men to operate.



Kryszka family. Standing: Marvin, Larry, Daniel, Brian. Sitting: Kathleen, Peter and Diane McNeil.

Kathleen Kiziak was born in 1923 in Wyssatycach, Western Ukraine, where she also completed her formal education. In 1939, Kathleen and mother and brother were brought over by her father who had come to Canada earlier (see family history of father, John Kiziak). They farmed in the Kopernick area.

In 1944, Peter and Kathleen were married in the Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church at Kopernick. They lived on the original Kryszka homestead (SE 20-47-15) and also had the quarters SW of 21 and (NE 17-47-15). Peter's mother continued to reside with them until her move to Holden in 1953.

They had a mixed farming operation, with wheat, barley and oats as the main crops. Horses were used to work the land until the purchase of their first new tractor in 1947. With the advent of technology, machines began to totally replace the use of horses.

Three years later, in 1950, a new combine and swather were purchased from Stanton and Saboe of Holden, both for a total price of \$3,500. This new equipment made it possible for one man to work the land.

In 1959, plans were made for the building of a new house. It was a three-bedroom, full basement, stucco-finished bungalow, and was completed in 1960. A few years later, 1963, another quarter of land was purchased. It was NW 17-47-15 and the former owner was Stanley Stepanick.

Peter and Kathleen still live on this farm. They raised five children.

Marvin was born in 1947. He started school in 1953 which was the first year for the children from the Kopernick district to be bussed to Bruce School. After high school in Holden he attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, enrolled in Petroleum Technology. He graduated as a technician in 1968 and worked for Husky Oil in Wainwright. He then attended the University of Montana, in Butte, Montana. In 1971, Marvin graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering. He returned to Wainwright and married Darlene Tizzard in 1972. They now live on their quarter section on the outskirts of Lloydminster. Marvin is the Area Superintendent of Thermal Operations for Husky Oil in Lloydminster and Darlene works for the Public School Division.



A crew from the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation of Hokkaido, Japan. They were interested in our way of life.

Daniel was born in 1949. He attended the Bruce and Holden Schools and finished his final year of high school in Camrose. He went on to the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, and in 1972 graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 1971 he married Judith Kawalilak (see family history of father, Joseph Kawalilak). Dan and Judy live in Sherwood Park with their two sons, David and Michael. Dan presently works as a Project Engineer for the CN Rail Construction Department.

Brian was born in 1953. He attended the Bruce and Holden Schools. After high school graduation, in 1971, he attended the University of Alberta, Edmonton, and in 1975 received a Bachelor of Science

degree in Electrical Engineering. He was employed by the Federal Government in Ottawa as an Electronics Design Engineer for Transport Canada. Brian worked in Ottawa for four years and was transferred to Edmonton in 1979. He now lives in Sherwood Park and works as an Automated Systems Engineer for Transport Canada. As a sideline, Brian has gone into business and has established an Electrical Engineering Consulting Firm.

Diane was born in 1957. She attended the Bruce and Holden Schools, graduating from high school in 1975. She enrolled at Camrose Lutheran College completing two years of university in general science. She transferred to the University of Alberta, where she graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Psychology. In 1980, Diane married Dr. John McNeil. They live in Edmonton, where Diane works as a researcher at Alberta Hospital, Edmonton and John is a physician at the Misericordia Hospital.

Larry was born in 1963. He attended Bruce and Holden Schools, and after graduation accepted a job with the Canadian National Railway, as a surveyor. He plans to enroll in engineering at the University of Alberta.

Kubin, Anton

Anton came to Canada with his parents Tom and Teklia Kubin in 1900 at age thirteen. His parents purchased the land where Mrs. Joe (Francis) Budinski lives now. As soon as they got settled, Anton got a job doing farm work for Cyrus Young, on the east side of Beaverhill Lake. He worked there till 1909 when he purchased land north of Ryley. That



Anton and Mary Kubin, 1958.

same year he married Mary, daughter of Alex and Teklia Kisilewich from Kiew, Alberta. In 1915 he sold the land and purchased S½-51-19-16, five miles north of Haight. He built a house, barn and a blacksmith shop, and cleared and broke land. In those days you had to have a blacksmith shop to sharpen plowshares and make rims for wagon wheels. Later he purchased a Rumley tractor and threshing machine. With this outfit he threshed for his neighbors and friends.



Kubin family. Back Row: Tom, Jean, Vic, Kay, Stan. Front Row: Ann, Mary and Helen.

Anton and Mary were both members of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic church which they helped build. They had eleven children, of which seven are living, Ann, Kay, Helen, Jean, Tom, Vic and Stan. They all attended Togo School.

Ann and her husband Ray Neitz live in Creston, B.C. and she has three children.

Kay Cashto is a widow and lives in Burnaby, B.C. She has two children.

Helen Bobyak, also a widow, lives at Kinsella and has seven children.

Jean and her husband John Kozdrowski live in Ryley and have three children.

Tom and Kay live in Vegreville, and have two children.

Vic and husband Bill Whiting live in Port Moody B.C. They have two children.

Stan lives north of Ryley and has three children.

In 1944 Anton Kubin sold the land to John Kozdrowski and moved to Revelstoke B.C. They celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1969. Anton passed away in 1970 and Mary in 1974.

Kudrowich, Joe

Joe, eldest son of Peter and Anastasia, took over the family farm in 1935, and that same year he married Annie Stefanik of Bruce. They had a family of seven daughters and one son. Joe and Annie retired from the farm to the Village of Holden in 1973.

Joe's sister, Pauline, married Peter Hrabec in 1932. They resided on a farm south of Ryley until 1962 when they retired and moved to Holden.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Kudrowich.

The children of Joe and Annie Kudrowich all got their education in Ryley School. They are: Rose, Helen, Eileen, Mary, Judy, Susan, Peter and Angeline.

Rose married Albin Danylak, a city fireman, in 1957. Rose now works in Woodwards, and resides in Edmonton with her five children: Robert, Gary, Dale, Jim and Irene. Helen married a farmer, Nick Marko. (see Nick Marko history) Eileen married Mike Nakonechny, a farmer near Mundare. They have four children; Duane, Gerald, Louise and Marlene. Mary is a secretary and lives in Edmonton, and is a part owner of a small business, Alberta Central Trenching. Judy married Vern Kalynchuk, who is an assistant meat manager at Safeway; and Judy is an Underwriting supervisor at the A.M.A. They have three children; Bryce, Kurt and Scott, and they live in Edmonton. Susan married Wayne Kushnir. Wayne works for the County of Beaver as a grader operator. Susan worked in Edmonton at Kroehler Furniture for



The Kudrowich family.

eight years, and now is taking it easy at home at Ryley. They have two children; Shelly and Marcy. Peter married Dayna Norby from Ryley. Peter is a journeyman welder in Fort Saskatchewan. Dayna worked at Kreohler Furniture for four years, and is now looking after the family at home in Bruderheim. They have two children; Corey and Bradley. Angie married Ken Pope of Ryley. Ken works at Dow Chemical as a traffic analyst. Angie is working at Lamont as a teacher's aide. They have two children; Shawn and Melony, and they reside in Lamont.

Lake and Foran Families

John and Mary Jane (Jennie) Lake arrived in Holden in the early 1900's from Iowa with two young daughters, Lila and Grace. Lila married Will Hayes, a pharmacist and they made their home at Nordegg first, then at Stony Plain. They also had two daughters, Muriel and Dorothy. Muriel married Dermot Williams and they had three daughters, Margaret, Carol and Lorraine and one son, Neil. Dorothy married John Robinson and has two sons, Bill and Doug. Lila was left a widow at an early age, and then married David Willson and made her home on Vancouver Island until her death.

Grace married Archie Foran who came to Holden with the Trader's Bank from Ontario. Archie left the bank and worked as an agent for the National Grain Elevator until his retirement. Grace owned the Holden Herald and was the editor of it for many years and remained so after it was sold to Sun Publishing, as long as she was able.

The Forans had three sons: Ted, Cliff and Jim.



John and Mary Lake's 50th Anniversary 1940.

Ted and Jim both lost their lives in the Second World War.

Cliff married Freida, youngest daughter of Adam and Eva Dorin. For many years Cliff had Foran Agencies; Real Estate and Insurance, which he ran with the help of his father. He was also secretary-treasurer of the village for a period of time. After selling Foran Agencies, Cliff worked for Beaver Motors for a few years before moving to Edmonton where he resided until his death in 1972. Freida liked her job so well as a telephone operator that when they closed the office in 1966 she obtained a clerk's position with A.G.T. in Edmonton. She is now counting the days and months until retirement which comes in 1983.



Jim, Cliff, Grace, Ted and Archie Foran.

Cliff and Freida had two children. Marilynn, married to Bob Ratke has two children, David and Mari Jane. Marilynn is comptroller at Stedelbauer Chev Olds in Edmonton and Bob teaches high school in Stony Plain. In their spare time they own and operate an Orange Julius franchise in Centennial Mall in Edmonton.

Dale graduated from U. of A. as a pharmacist and Business Administrator. He is now employed by Eli Lilly in Toronto. Dale and his wife, the former Candy Craig of Edmonton, reside in Bowmanville, Ontario, with their three daughters, Nicolle, Michelle, Chantelle and son J. Brandon.

Lamb, Charles and Louise

Charles and Louise Lamb sailed from north Ireland in 1925 on the S.S. Doric. Looking forward to a new life in Canada, they brought with them their seven children, Richard, Ernest, Kathleen, Meta, Mervyn, Edith and Freda.

By train the family made the long trip from Quebec City to sunny Alberta. They settled on a farm a few miles southeast of Holden. The land locations of this farm which Charles Lamb later bought from Frank Breach was NW 36-49-15-W4. Two more sons were added to the Lamb family while on this farm, Joseph and Eric.



C. S. Lamb family leaving Ireland. Back Row: Ernest Lamb, Eric McMurray, Charles Lamb, Richard Lamb, George McMurray, Kate Cameron. Front Row: Mrs. Lamb holding Freda, Meta Lamb, Mrs. McMurray holding Edith Lamb, Kathleen and Mervyn Lamb.

The children attended the West Bruce School which was a distance of four miles southeast. They usually walked; only seldom did they go by horse and buggy. The winters were often severe. Many a stormy day Mr. Lamb would walk to meet the children and when safely home there was plenty of good homemade soup to enjoy around the big coal heater. With snow as high as the fence posts, this meant good

full sloughs come spring thaw. One good place was the creek just north of the Lamb farm, which flowed all the way to the big C.N.R. dam site east of Holden. The Lamb children would skate the four miles to the dam and back again. It must have been good exercise for seldom did anyone see a doctor.

Good memories of the old place are many. One that stands out is Mr. Lamb calling up the stairs on a very severe winter morning to announce that it was fifty below and had "broken all records". Another good memory is of the good homemade ice cream that Mrs. Lamb always made for Christmas Day. Oh no, there were no fridges in those days. All that was needed was for someone to run out to the big snow-drift often, and to give the ice cream a good stir in the big bowl. "Yummy"!

Charles Lamb sawed wood for most of his neighbours and also killed turkeys for them. He took Meta and Freda with him to pluck the birds. Mrs. Lamb raised many turkeys of her own. Sly coyotes didn't get many. Neither did, Mr. Skunk, for many a night a voice called, "Charlie, there's something in the hen house!" Out he'd dash to scare off the intruder.

The war years 1939-45 came. Richard, Ernest and Mervyn enlisted in the army and Kathleen in the Canadian Air Force in eastern Canada. During these years Louise Lamb knitted numerous socks and sweaters for the Red Cross. Fortunately all the Lambs who enlisted in the services came through safely.

In March of 1948 Charles and Louise with Freda, Joe and Eric moved to Penticton. Their sons Richard and Ernest were already working there. Charles rented the farm to his son-in-law, Tony Armstrong. However the Armstrongs also moved out there too in 1948 and the land was rented to Metro Umrysh for five years when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. David Laube.

Charles and Louise enjoyed twenty years in Penticton. Louise died in 1968 and is buried in the Penticton Cemetery. Mr. Lamb still lives there and celebrated his 90th birthday in 1981. All the family visit him often.

Following is a list of the nine Lamb children, their families and their present whereabouts:

Richard (deceased 1977). His wife Agnes lives in Penticton; their family, Bruce, Brenda and Patricia.

Ernest and his wife Nora live in Penticton; their children, Lorraine, Charles and Mary.

Kathleen and husband Bob Palmer live in Fredericton, N.B., their family, Robert and Richard.

Meta and her husband Tom Armstrong live in Penticton; family Phyllis and Dale.

Mervin and wife Viola live in Calgary; their family Edna and Murray.

Edith and her husband Melvin Carlson still live in Holden; their family, Robert, Vivian and Eric.

Freda and her husband Dave (deceased 1979) live in Sherwood Park; their family, David, Linda and Desmond.

Joseph and his wife Rita live at Farmington, B.C. Joe and his former wife Louise had three children, Mickey, Joannie and Joey.

Eric has chosen to remain a bachelor and lives with his father in Penticton. Mr. Lamb also has sixteen great grandchildren.

The Lambs had a great many years living at Holden. Freda and her family and Edith and Eric have walked to the old West Bruce School site many times in the last few years. This walk brings back good memories for both Edith and Freda. The West Bruce School is now the Holden Legion Hall.

Langum, Samuel J. **by Harriet Carlson**

My dad homesteaded in the year 1906 near Holden. His parents were already living at Bittern Lake. They had lived in the States for a few years before coming to Canada. My dad used to help with the farm work in the summer, and in the winter he would go back to Minneapolis, where he lived with his aunt who was a widow. He got most of his education in Minneapolis, and also music lessons.



S. J. Langum home near Holden.

He was a very good violinist, and loved to play classical music, although he did play popular music as well. During homestead days he used to play for dances and got \$5.00 a night, which was considered a lot of money in those days.

After building a log shack with a good roof of shingles, in which we lived for quite a few years, we had a house built of lumber. Some of the neighbours had log shacks with sod roofs, which were not very good when it rained, and we did have a lot of rain in those days.

My dad broke up some of the land with oxen, then later on with horses, and finally he bought a tractor. By that time he was engaged in mixed farming.

In the year 1920 my dad decided he had had enough of farming, so sold out and he again went back to the U.S.A. where he lived until he was in his early sixties, when he died of a heart attack. He did at least get to spend his last few years in the country where he always wanted to be.

Larsen, John and Sofie by Lora (Larsen) Jacobsen

Johannes (John) Larsen was born on a farm near Bronderslev, Jylland in Northern Denmark in 1888. John and his three brothers longed to sail west across the ocean to this Big New Land called "America". Between 1913-1914 they had all arrived in Chicago, Illinois. John joined his older brother hauling ice, the other two did carpenter work. John wanted to farm. He took off to Wessington Springs, South Dakota and worked on a farm.



John Larsen family (1950). Standing: Lora, Esther, Elisabeth, Helen, Valborg. Seated: Gudrun, John, Sofie, Ebba.

Now John longed for a pretty young lady he knew back in Denmark, Sofie who was daughter of a veterinarian, Rasmus Johansen. They had kept in touch by letter and begged her to come to America. But her father wouldn't hear of it. "You can't sail off across

that big ocean and go live in a strange land so far away." But she finally got permission to visit her Uncle Peter Johansen in Wessington Springs. "But just a visit", he said. May 27, 1916 was a happy day for John. Sofie arrived at the Huron Railroad station on her 25th birthday to visit her Uncle Peter and Aunt Anna. That fall, they were married.

At first they both worked for a farmer, then rented a farm near Wessington Springs. Here their first child Elisabeth was born. They farmed here for eight years, moving six times.

John saw a writing in a book, Pete Sorensen and Pastor Rasmussen and some of the people living near the town of Holden, Alberta, Canada were trying to start a Danish settlement. John took a train to Holden to talk to them. Together they found the Isaac Olson farm which was for sale. John liked the countryside here with its many trees. One quarter of land was plenty for a beginning farmer, so he decided to buy it.

He went back, sold everything except bedding, clothes and dishes, and with Sofie and five small children took the train north to sunny Alberta. In 1925 in the middle of the night John and Sofie and children, Elisabeth, Lora, Helen, Valborg and Gudrun arrived at the Holden railroad station. It was dark and not a soul in sight. They took their few belongings and found the hotel. Next day was Canada's Thanksgiving. They finally got to Pete Sorensen's, who was kind enough to keep them for a couple of weeks, till they could move onto the Olson farm south of Holden.

I'm Lora, the second oldest daughter. I remember how mamma liked that big house. Elisabeth and I had three miles to go to Fairview School. Many of us would walk home from school together often taking short cuts to our homes through pastures or trails through the woods. We sometimes drove the one horse buggy to school. I remember a time when the horse was in a hurry to get home, and going through the school gate, the wheel hit the corner post. The horse galloped on with harness dangling and we, bruised and scared, were left at the gate. Some frightening moments for papa and mamma seeing the horse at the gate with a broken harness and bleeding at the mouth.

Mamma always had fresh baked cake and a glass of milk for us when we got home from school. Then Elisabeth and I would go to bring the cattle home. Not from the home pasture, they'd eaten that clean, but from the "free land" we called it. It was two miles north to a big unfenced piece of land, where others also took their cattle to feed and all mingled together. We had a hard time to find ours, and worse yet, to separate them from others. At times a stray bull, or steer would tag a long and was impossible to

separate. So we'd take him along. Next morning he'd follow the herd when Papa took them back to pasture. Sometimes animals strayed too far and would be picked up by the pound.

One day the well drillers came to Fairview School. At recess we all crowded around to watch. I could not see so I squeezed through to get in front. Suddenly it was like a plug blew out and with an awful blast it gushed out straight at me and others around me. We were drenched with dirty muddy water.

In the fall of 1928 with new baby Ebba we left the Holden area and moved to a farm north of Bawlf, one mile east of Gladstone School.

In June 1935, the youngest daughter, Esther, was born. Some hard years were spent here and times were poor. Mamma had a big garden and there was a generous supply of wild fruit that was used in many ways. We always made out somehow.

In Spring of 1939, Papa bought a farm in the Lake Demay district northeast of Camrose. In the years we lived here, we girls left home, some to get married and some to get jobs, leaving the folks alone.

In 1955 they sold the farm and bought a house in Camrose. They had raised seven daughters.

Elisabeth married Jens M. Christensen and they farm near Wessington Springs, South Dakota. They have three children, Nyla, Chris and John.

I, Lora, married Lawrence B. Jacobsen. We farm near Josephburg, Alberta and have one son, Harold.

Helen is single, lives in Philadelphia, and works at the University of Philadelphia School of Dentistry.

Valborg (Val) is married to Elmer Westergaard. They farm at Dickson, Alberta. They have four sons, Garry, Keith, Dale died at 8 months and Randy. There are seven grandchildren.

Gudrun married James Adolf. They farmed east of Camrose and now live in Camrose. They have three children, Ken, Judy, Jane and one grandchild.

Ebba married Calvin Larson who has a well-drilling business. They had six children, Linda, Donald (deceased), Grant, Howard, Diane and Darlene.

Esther is married to Henry Lambert and they farm at Winfield. They have three children, Cheryl, Cory, Cindy and five grandchildren.

In the spring of 1960, John and Sofie moved to Stoney Creek Lodge and in 1963 to Bethany Nursing Home. John passed away in 1963 and Sofie in 1976.

Larson, Anton by Anna Pederson

Anton Larson came to Alberta from Elbow Lake, Minnesota in 1895. After first settling in the Bittern Lake area, he moved with his parents and family to



Ted Holden, Anton Larson, Louie Holden, on Anton Larson's woodpile (1938).

the Holden district in 1897, where he took a homestead.

He cleared a lot of land for neighbors, using a twisted axe. He piled the poles and later helped saw them up into firewood. He worked for Andrew Naslund, stack threshing in the 1920's, along with Johnnie North. Anton was a very heavy user of snuff, and it was said that when he ran out of snuff, he chewed the box.

He later went to the Buck Lake area by covered wagon, with the intention of taking another homestead. A friend, John Zeminek accompanied him. When neither one could find any suitable land, they returned to Holden. He left again in 1930, going to Ground Birch, B.C. where he did take a homestead, and this is where he made his home. Once again he used his twisted axe to clear the land. He also cleared land for his neighbors and in exchange they broke his land for him.

He lived alone, so a cat and a dog were his constant companions. His health failed and he passed away in 1969 at the age of eighty-four. He was buried near Ground Birch, B.C.

Larson, Herbert and Vivian

We, along with our fourteen year old son Darryl, arrived at our new home on SW 9-47-16 in 1972. Our former home, better known as "Larson's General Store" at SW 2-47-15, was put up for auction by the Highway Department because it was on the right of way for construction of Highway 26.

We felt that we were moving back home again as Herb, son of Hjalmer and Hilda Larson was born and raised in the Quarrel district. I, Vivian, daughter of Martin and Alice Myrmo had been born and raised in the Gladstone area.

Our daughter Judy, a hairdresser, married Melford Wiklun and worked at her trade until her children were born. They live with their children Roxane and Rhonda in Sherwood Park.



Herb Larson family. Back Row: Darryl Larson, Robert Potts, Vivian and Herb Larson, Melford Wiklun. Front Row: Deniene, Sharon and Leanne Potts, Rhonda, Judy and Roxane Wiklun.

Sharon and her husband Robert Potts also live in Sherwood Park with their daughters Leanne and Deniene. Sharon worked in a bank in Edmonton for several years, but is home raising her family now.

Darryl finished high school in Holden and took two years of university. He has since been working with engineering and surveying firms.

We are enjoying our life on the farm and feel fortunate to live in such a friendly community.

Herb and I both do some part time work for Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. We enjoy curling at Gladstone in the winter months, and Herb likes to challenge the neighbors in a friendly game of pool or shuffle board.

Larson, John and Mathilda **by Anna (Holden) Pederson**

John Larson's first wife passed away in Malmo, Sweden, and left him with three children, Lars, Carrie and Anna. After he came to the States he married Mrs. Mattie Pherson, who had one son, John. To this union six more children were born, Pete (who later became known as "Prairie Pete"), Mary, Olaf, Anton, Tilda and Alma.

With a dream and determination they ventured from Elbow Lake, Minnesota, to Bittern Lake, Alberta, in 1895, where they settled on a homestead on the east edge of Bittern Lake. They drove their herd of cattle and horses from Minnesota, and it was said that the trip took two years. At Bittern Lake they cleared and broke some land and ranched.

Their son John did not accompany them, but chose to remain at Elbow Lake. Another son Lars, chose the name of "Johnson" as his surname. (At



John and Mattie Larson's home built in 1897.

that time it was a common practice among the Scandinavians for a son to take his father's first and add "son", hence the name Johnson".)

In 1897, they needed more land for grazing, so the family moved to the south Holden district, where their son, Pete had taken a homestead (SW 36-47-16). It is believed that the Larsons were about the first white settlers to come to this area. They built a two storey log house and a barn. They dug a well with a spade, curbed it and baled water out with a pail. John then bought the north-east quarter of that section from Jim Sizer. He did this by trading some cattle for it. His sons, Anton and Ole homesteaded the northwest and southeast quarters respectively. They all loved ranching, and had a large herd of cattle and quite a number of horses which they brought with them. They also purchased a purebred Percheron stallion. Trapping and hunting coyotes with hounds was a winter pastime. Their supplies were hauled by team and wagon from Wetaskiwin.

Mattie washed and carded sheep wool and made quilts. She also spun wool into yarn and knit socks, mitts and scarves for the family.



John Larson house taken in 1981.

John and Mattie retired and moved to Holden in 1916 or '17, which was fortunate as they missed the hard winter of 1918-19 on the farm. They bought a house, second one east of the old Royal Bank building, and they lived there for about ten years. They kept a cow, a few chickens and raised a pig each year for their meat supply.

Due to age and ill health, they were not able to care for themselves, and in 1927 they went to live in a small house at their daughter Tilda Holden's place, where she could care for them.

Mattie passed away in June, 1929 at the age of 86, and John in October, 1929, a month before his 92nd birthday.

Larson, Olaf and Linnea by Elvera LeClercq and Anna Pederson

Olaf Larson was born in 1883, son of John and Mattie Larson. He came to Alberta with his parents from Elbow Lake, Minnesota, in 1895 first settling in the Bittern Lake district. In 1897 the family moved to the south Holden district where Olaf took a homestead.



Olaf and Linnea Larson (1912).

In 1912 he married Linnea Moberg, a young lady of nineteen, who had just come to Canada from Sweden. The Moberg family were indeed fortunate, as they were to leave Sweden on the "Titanic" (which sank on April 14, 1912) but due to the illness of Mrs. Moberg, they couldn't leave. They came over the same year in September. After their marriage they lived with Olaf's parents until their house was built. They ranched, and also broke up some sod and farmed. Being fond of hunting, Olaf had hounds which he used to hunt coyotes.

Olaf and Linnea had five children, Carl, who passed away as a young boy, a daughter Ethel died in infancy, Emily, was married to Louie Gardecki and passed away 1978. Gordon lives at Red Deer. Elvera is married to Phillip LeClercq and they farm south of Holden.

Olaf and his wife lived in Camrose during their retirement. When Olaf's health failed, he went to Bethany Home in Camrose where he remained until his passing in 1976. Linnea lived with her daughter Elvera until she passed away in 1970.

Larson, Pete known as "Prairie Pete"

In 1963 Prairie Pete Larson was laid to rest, reminding us our pioneers are quickly being called Home. With them is going the history of our country.

Prairie Pete was a cowboy possessed with the endurance required to be a stockman. Though kindly and friendly, and sensitive to the sorrows of his fellow man, he was also an individualist, — what he believed, he defended, come who or what may. His hope was that the coming and present generations would appreciate this country and happily gave me this history as he experienced it:

"When I was a young fellow living in Grand County, Minnesota, I read of the great possibilities of ranching in Canada. The advertisements gave me the



Pete Larson, 1961.

idea that cattle could graze the year around. One ad. said all you needed was guts and backbone.

In 1895 my dad and I rode north as far as Wetaskiwin and stayed there a month. I sure was disgusted to find the settlers living in log shacks with sod roofs, some with dirt floors. Everybody we met was broke with little hope of bettering themselves.

After looking around my dad took up a homestead 3 miles northeast of Bittern Lake. I know now all the land was good but we were too green to see it at the time. To start we had three horses, and one cow and a plow and harrow; we seeded by hand. It was tough going I can tell you. Equipment was hard to come by those days, but we were able to buy some on time.

Most of the settlers drove oxen, but we used our horses. I used to help the neighbors break oxen, and I soon learned that you cannot whip an ox. He'll sulk and lay down if you do. I found the thing to do when they got tired was to let them lay down and take a rest myself. When he was rested he was agreeable. The ox and the horse made this country. They were the power in breaking the sod, and putting through the railroad and roads. Ordinarily the ox is a slow animal but when the heel flies bit them, boy would they go! I've seen them pull a plow right into a slough, and lay down to escape those flies.

About the turn of the century we were still awful hard up. I got a job in the mountains doing pick and shovel work. We put in a ten hour day, six days a week, and received \$1.15 a day. I lived in a tent and I figured it cost me \$3.50 per week to board myself. We built a trail from Field, B.C. to the fossil beds. We saw many interesting things. On one occasion when we broke the rocks we found a fossil shaped like two shaking hands. We found shapes of birds, animals, snakes and others. The mountain trails were very narrow, one little cayuse rolled down into the bush when a big fat sightseer was on him.

I saved all I could from two years work and came home to Bittern Lake in 1902. I bought 40 head of cattle, and Dad had some by now, too. We decided that the range looked better farther north, so Dad sold his homestead and I took one up about 13 miles from where the town of Holden now stands.

There were no fences so we built corrals. We would herd the cattle in the day and corral them at night. Some settlers would not let us ride across their grass; they seemed suspicious of everybody. Most of them were friendly and we helped each other all we could.

We built log buildings, it was hard to get enough lumber for the roof and floor of the house. We got all our supplies from Wetaskiwin. We made the trip twice a year for groceries and clothing. If we needed

lumber or hardware we had to make a special trip. We usually went by wagon, I believe we went once by sleigh. There was only a prairie trail and we had to leave the beaten trail to travel in many places, to avoid sloughs. The hollows were full of water then. I recall bogging down right to the hubs of the wagon. One time we followed the trail into a soft bottomed slough. The team mired. Boy! they struggled and panicked, we had no choice but to jump out in all that slush, unhitch them and lead them out, then cut poles from the nearest bush and pry the wagon loose.

By 1903 I had a nice herd of horses. The ones on the range strayed away, so a fellow named Sam Broncon and I set out with a team and democrat to find them. We drove for miles, dashed if I knew where we went. Years later I found out we went through the coulees and along the Vermilion River.

Near there we met a couple of riders who said they came from the Bar Colony. When I mentioned I had lost my horses, one fellow snapped, "We never rustled them and don't you dare say we did".

We drove back through there. There was no Kinsella or railroad then. We found the horses west of Lake Hattie. There was not nearly as much bush as now. We drove up that big hill on our way back where the government cairn is now (S. of Phillips). I recall standing on that hill and looking across, I could see for miles. I thought this is God's country, I sure liked what I saw. We made our camp near those buffalo rocks that night.

We had our hardships at Holden, as well as at Bittern Lake. The grass was long but often a prairie fire would burn it black for miles. One year it seemed we fought those fires day and night. Several settlers lost their buildings, some all of their winter hay.

The winter of 1906 was a terror. Snow came early, and lay about two feet on the level. The drifts were so deep a horse would have to plunge through, sometimes even go down with their riders. It was a common sight to see a man shovel a team out, if they were pulling a load. The extreme cold weather lasted about seven weeks. We heard the thermometer at Bruce broke at 60 below. The snow laid long that spring.

The summer of 1906 was hot and dry so that fall we drove most of our cattle which was nearly 100 head to Camrose and sold them. Was I ever glad that we did for the winter of 1907 was as bad as 1906 but the feed was much scarcer. Those who kept their cattle lost most of them. They had no way of selling them once they became weak and poor. It was pitiful, cattle lay dead around the buildings. Horses that were old, lay dead on the prairie. Snow was found in the shaded places in June 1907, a foot deep. I also recall the snowstorms were so violent you could get lost coming from doing the chores at night with a lantern,

which usually blew out in the wind. The dim lights in the shacks could scarcely be seen, as what windows we had were usually frozen over. We always kept a shovel in the house and often had to use it to dig our way out in the morning. One fellow strung a wire, as a guide between his house and barn, because he lost his way and nearly froze the night before. My horses survived, lucky for me they were young, but they looked pretty tough by spring, I'll tell you.

In the summer of 1907 I rode east through what is now Prague district in search of a missing colt. The settlers were turning up sod to beat the band. I swam my horse across the Iron Creek and was wet to the arms. I asked to spend the night at a place farther east, but I guess they didn't like the looks of me. The boss told me to go in a most unfriendly way. It sure was cold that night laying on my saddle blanket.

I had an urge to start on my own, with no family strings attached. In 1910 Chris Grosland (who had the same idea) and I left for Cold Lake, went by team and wagon, with two horses tied behind. For three months we never saw the inside of a house. When we crossed the Sturgeon River we were met by a swarm of sand flies which followed us to Cold Lake. They'd start at sunrise and get into the horses' ears and torment them until sundown. A smudge did no good. We had taken along some pine tar in case a horse got distemper, or got cut, so we plastered some of it on their ears and drove through small brush whenever we could, that was the only relief we got from them.

There were a few white fellows around Cold Lake, and a lot of Indians. The area did not appeal to us as stock country. Our wagon was pretty shaky now so we traded it to the Indians. We rode the team back using the other two as pack horses. Three months after we had left our shacks at Holden we arrived back.

I lived at Holden until 1915. I couldn't forget the looks of that prairie sprawling for miles and those lakes I saw from that hill in 1903. In 1915 I came back south of Kinsella to look things over and decided to stay.

This area looked more promising for raising and grazing horses than Holden. So in 1918 I bought my place from Frank Williams and I had been here ever since. I had a good herd of horses and worked out for other people at cowboy work.

I lost a lot of my horses in the tough winter of 1919-20. O gosh it was hard to stand there and see horses and cattle die and not be able to help them.

I started farming a bit, and raising Aberdeen Angus cattle and Angora goats as well as horses. Good many black cattle across the country originated from my well bred herd.

We suffered the hardships of prairie fires, sand-

storms, buildings being blown down, drought and dirt cheap prices for what we had to sell. The war changed a lot but the ordinary work horse was finished. I sold almost all of mine, at a low price. Cattle prices kept climbing until 1951.

Now, in 1962 times are good in comparison to any time before, but as I look back, I had a good life. You know I never worried, I took the rough with the smooth and I guess I learned to mix them. The rough keeps you going, if things are too easy it makes a man lazy. Since I am getting old, I am glad to have friends to talk to and take me to town, and other places in their cars.

What I miss most is being able to cut across country, but people can come and visit in a few minutes now, that makes up for it, as well I can take a ride in the hills any time because the old saddle horse is always in the corral."

Laskoski, Fred

by Alice (Laskoski) Hoveland

Fred was born in 1909 to Steve and Nancy Laskoski. He lived with his parents on the farm and attended Scona and Vermillion Valley Schools. He then took schooling in Calgary. From there he went to Ontario where he worked for Cliff Nickel Mines at Sudbury. This was in the early 1930's, at about the time his dad bought three quarters of land in the West Bruce district for \$11.00 an acre. His brothers John and Bill cleared the land and broke some up. Fred



Fred and Nick Laskoski.

came back from Ontario and went farming. His Dad gave him the S.W. 32-48-15-4. He built a two room house, drilled a well and built a small barn too. In 1942 he left the farm and worked three years at the air observing school in Edmonton under the command of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He then came back to Holden and started carpenter work. He built many farm homes and buildings in the district, as well as in the town of Holden.

I, Alice, grew up in the Colinton, Alberta area and well remember the hardships and privation of homestead days and how well my Mother coped with them. I have never forgotten the smell of her home baked bread, and the taste of her fresh butter. I also remember the homemade lye soap and the wooden floors that had to be scrubbed with it.

I met Fred in 1947 and after we were married, we moved to his farm. He continued carpentering till the 1950's; then we just farmed. Fred was an original director on the Bruce Rural Electrification Association, when it was organized in 1953. In the early years Fred was also on the school board at West Bruce School. We had two children. Deborah, who is married to Ted Helboe, lives in Sherwood Park. They have two children, Darren and Robin. Curtis is in grade nine at Holden. Fred passed away in 1971.

I am now married to Reuben Hoveland and we make our home on the farm south of Holden.

Laskosky, George

by Mary (Laskosky) Stogryn

My father, George Laskosky came to Canada in 1904, from the village of Hninowichi, near Vienna, Austria. He was twenty-four years old at the time. His brothers Steve and Harry also came to Canada.



Pearl and George Laskosky.

Pearl Hrisilek came to Canada in 1904 at the age of nineteen, along with her mother Eva and two sisters, Katie and Nancy. Her father, Hawrulo, died in the Ukraine and her mother in 1935, she is buried in the Ryley Cemetery. Pearl and George Laskosky were married, and her sister Katie married Steve Laskosky. Both couples settled on homesteads five miles south of Holden.

My parents had eleven children; Mary, Mike, William, Steve, John, Katherine, Peter, Myrtle and Samuel. Two daughters passed away.

Before my parents were married, my mother worked at the McDonald Hotel and my father, along with farming took a job digging ditches in Edmonton. Even after their marriage he occasionally worked in Edmonton to supplement the family income.

There was a store about four or five miles northwest of the homestead, as there was no Holden at that time. Oxen hitched to wagon were often used for transportation. During hot weather, the first thing the oxen did was to head for the nearest slough, where they would stand until they cooled down. During this confusion, all the people in the wagon could do was sit and wait.



George Laskosky family: Mike, William, Steve, John, Pete, Sam. Front: Mary, Katherine, Myrtle.

When they first settled on their homestead, they built a log house with a straw roof. I can remember when two barns and a chicken house were built. These buildings had to be plastered with mud, a job I used to help my mother with. The clay was mixed with water and kneaded with bare feet. When it was moist, it was slopped by handfuls in the spaces between the logs and smoothed over. If it happened to rain the mud would come loose and drop off. Wouldn't that make you mad! We whitewashed the house, but not the other buildings. My brother Bill and I helped Dad with the farm work, clearing and

plowing the land, trimming the trees and cutting them up for firewood. We milked thirteen cows for many years. The cream was churned into butter and sold at the grocery store for about 25¢ a pound, an eight gallon can of cream was sold for \$2.50. Mother raised chickens by setting clucking hens on eggs and chicks would hatch three weeks later, an exciting time for us children! Eggs were used for food, and the rest sold, for about 10¢ a dozen. Our meat supply was supplemented by hunting rabbits (very good cooked with cream and onions), prairie chickens and wild duck. When I was older, mother bought a Singer sewing machine, and taught me how to sew, I then made the shirts and dresses for the family. I still have the sewing machine and it's still in good condition.

A cousin of ours, who came from Austria married Stanley Woicichowski and they settled in Holden. I lived with them for two years while I attended school in Holden. My first teacher was Charlie Brisbin, and another was Mr. Beckwith. Charlie Brisbin and my dad became friends, and he often walked to our farm to visit, and to teach English to my parents. After that all we children attended Vermillion Valley School, a distance of three miles. At first we walked then dad bought a buckskin pony and a small buggy, also a cutter for use in the winter. This made going to and from school much easier.

In 1941 I went to work in Saskatchewan for a time. I then returned to Holden where I worked as a cook in the Holden Hotel. Two years later I moved to Vancouver where I met and married John Stogryn in 1945. John had served with the armed forces for four

years, during W.W.II. After our marriage we lived first at Blairmore, Alberta, where John worked in a coal mine, and then at Morinville, where we farmed for ten years. We then farmed near Bruce, where we still live. Our son, Daniel now farms the land.

Laskoski, Harry

Harry Laskoski arrived in Canada from Western Ukraine in 1912. He stopped at his brother Steve's place. His first job was working for a farmer in the Viking district, Nick Klontz. Later he worked on a railroad until he earned enough money to buy a farm southeast of Holden in 1925. His biggest pride was the horses he used for farming.



Harry Laskoski.

Laskoski, Peter and Toots

Peter was born in 1918, the seventh child of George and Pearl Laskoski. He was born, grew up, and with his wife, Toots, live on the original farm homesteaded by his parents.

Peter received his schooling at Vermillion Valley School, three miles away and has been continuously farming ever since.

In 1948 Peter married Angeline (Toots), daughter of Roenza and Bertha Phillips. Toots received her schooling at Lakeshore, Tofield, Victoria Composite and Holden.

In 1950 Faye, the first of four children was born, followed by Jeanne, Lois and Mark all of whom received their schooling in Holden. As with most families with children, there were baton lessons, tap



Stogryn family: John, Daniel, Mary.

dancing lessons, swimming lessons, 4-H meetings, basketball, softball, baseball, gymnastics, hockey games and practices that required plenty of driving to and from these extra activities.

Faye is now a school teacher, homemaker and mother. She is married to Ron Stewart of Edmonton. Faye and Ron now live in Leduc with their two children Brandi and Lee.

Jeanne worked at the Edmonton Journal. She then worked at the Vegreville Advertiser and at insurance offices in Vegreville and Bonnyville. She now lives in Edmonton and enjoys her work as an insurance adjuster.

Lois went to Edmonton and worked in an insurance office and then worked at a day care centre. She is now a homemaker and mother bringing up her daughter Erin in Holden.

Mark is going to school in Holden. He spends his time skidooring, skating, motorbike riding after school and helping his dad with the farm.

Peter's main interests are horses, cattle and mixed farming.

Toots' main interests are farming, bookkeeping and part-time postal clerk in Holden.

Peter and Toots plan to remain on the farm as they both like country life.

Laskoski, Steve and Family by Nick Laskoski

After being depressed by the lords and barons in his native land of Ukraine, Steve had heard of the availability of free land in Canada. He got enough courage to sell his bit of land in the old country, and in 1903, accompanied by his wife Katherine, their two daughters, Anna and Barbara (aged four and two), sailed for Canada. They were detained in Halifax for some time because of his wife's eye problem. Since that took quite a bite of his budget, they arrived in Strathcona with only \$7.50 left. From there they were taken by oxen and wagon to the home of friends at Hay Lakes. Steve left his family in care of those people and he started out on foot to seek a homestead. He chose a quarter section of N.W.-14-48-16, which is six miles south of the present village of Holden. He walked back to Edmonton, a distance of sixty-five miles to register his claim. While they were living at Hay Lakes, their third daughter was born and later died. Steve returned to his homestead, built a mud hut and moved his family into it. From there he made two more trips to Edmonton on foot seeking work, such as digging waterlines by hand and building railroads. During that time another daughter, Mary, was born. Shortly after that his wife passed away. She was the first person to be buried in St. Mary's cemetery. Once while Steve was

breaking some land, a very touching incident happened; a man speaking a language the little girls didn't understand came by with a wagon, and left two sacks of potatoes by their door, and to this day his identity remains unknown. That showed the love and consideration that people had for each other in those days.



Steve and Nancy Laskoski.

In 1908 Steve married Nancy, the daughter of Tom and Tillie Malowany who lived only four miles from his homestead. Prior to her marriage, Nancy had been working in the hotels in Edmonton where she learned to speak English, which was a big asset to him. She had an extremely good memory, and it's from her that most of this history comes. They built a three-room log house, and in 1924 they built a bigger



Emily and Elizabeth Laskoski and Irene Billows.

two-storey house which still stands. Anybody that lived through the dirty thirties will never forget that experience, especially those with large families. There was no baby bonus in those days.

Later Steve bought another five quarters of land. He served on the school board and was on the building committee when St. Mary's Church was built in 1916.

Steve passed away in 1954 and his wife Nancy in 1975. I would be amiss if I didn't mention that Nancy's house was always opened to everyone that stopped in, especially the transients during the depression of the thirties. She always had homemade bread, baked in the outdoor clay oven.

It is with pride and respect that we pay tribute to our wonderful parents and also other pioneers who had the courage to venture to this great country which we are proud to inherit.



Steve Laskoski family. Back Row: John, Katie, Helen, Nick. Middle Row: Peter and Stella. Bottom Row: Nancy holding Rose, Jessie, Agnes, Steve holding Leo. Missing are Fred, Bill, Emily and Elizabeth.

The following are short histories of the Laskoski children. Two other children died in infancy.

Anna was the eldest child of the first marriage. She married Leo Jaremchuk. They first homesteaded near Kinsella and later moved near Camrose where they bought some land. They had four children. Anna passed away in 1952.

Barbara was the second child. She married Mike Szott and lived on a farm near Daysland. They had seven children. After Mike passed away Barbara went to live in the Mundare Lodge.



Annie Jaremchuk, Barbara and Mike Szott.



Mary and Mike Babyn and children.

Mary married Mike Babyn. They had five children. After her husband passed away she stayed on the farm with here son Melvin for some time. Now she resides at the Viking Lodge.

From Steve's second marriage they had the following children:

Fred married Alice Nalesnik. (see their story)

John farmed with his dad and later moved to his



John Laskoski.

own farm next to the West Bruce school. After farming there for some time he sold out and bought a pool hall in Killam. Six months later he sold the business and bought the old Tom Hall farm near Bruce. Later he sold that and moved to Edmonton. He was there only one week, no city living for him. He came back and bought a farm southwest of Holden. He was there only a few years, when again he sold and bought a house in Holden where he retired. When his brother Fred passed away he bought his farm from Fred's widow. Again he bought machinery to hobby farm. That same year he suffered a heart attack and died on Boxing Day in 1972. John was single.



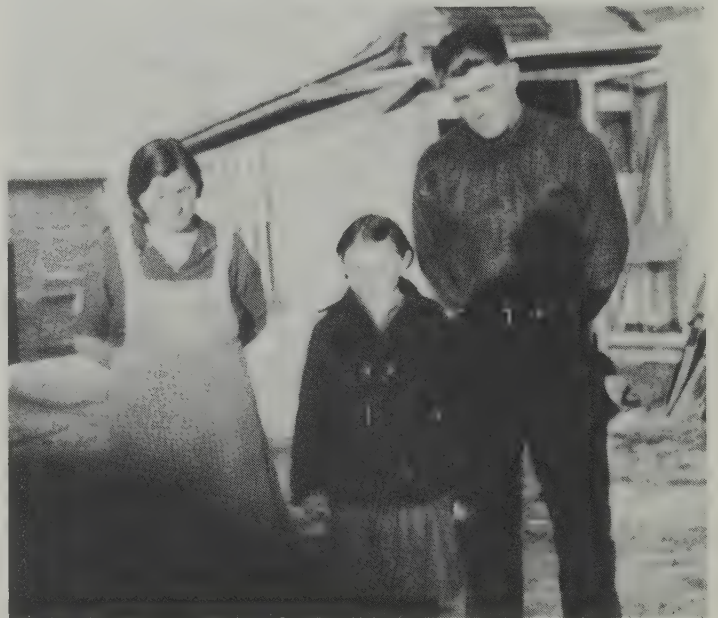
John and Katie Misyk on their 25th Anniversary.

Katie (Misyk), went to public school at Scona. At age fifteen she decided to stay at home and help her mother with the younger children, chores and household duties. Several years later, she met and married John Misyk from Kopernick.

They lived there for a number of years. Later they sold their land and bought two quarters of land north of Holden. They lived there until John was killed in a car accident. Katie remained on the farm for several years, renting out the land. After realizing the difficulties she encountered by living alone, she sold the farm and bought a house in Holden where she is now living.

Katie and John had five children, Nancy, Myron, Louise, Stan and Lawrence. Lawrence passed away in infancy. Nancy married Sam Field, and they farm near Bruce. Myron married Gale Newhouse and is now living in Cloverdale, B.C. Myron is now a retired R.C.M.P. Louise remains single. Stan, married to Judy King, is an electrical inspector and they live in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Katie has seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



William O. Laskoski with his sister Annie and niece Vera.

William O., after finishing his public school stayed home and farmed with his dad for a while. Later he built a house and barn on his own farm where he began farming with horses. During the winter months he worked at lumber camps, where he cut and skidded logs to earn extra money to subsidize his farming operation. Some time later he bought a tractor and bigger machinery and farmed more land. He was always an early riser and his neighbors complained that the noise from his tractor wouldn't let them sleep. When he got tired of farming he sold some of his land and rented out the rest. He then

operated a motor grader for the county for many years. Now he is operating a grader for Nelson's Oil Field Services and lives in his farm home, still a carefree bachelor.

I, **Nick**, was the fourth son and attended Scona School and had two years at Sandstorm. It was right at the height of the dirty thirties so I couldn't attend high school. I farmed with Dad for a few years. Our chief entertainment was playing ball on Sundays.

Later I became involved in public life, and served on the municipal council, Holden drainage council, Bruce R.E.A. board, church board and St. Mary's hall committee. I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for a number of years.

In 1946 while I was on municipal council, I married Mary Mulick, a local school teacher, and we moved to our own farm in a partly built house. Our honeymoon was moving into a house with an outside shell only; partitions were only 2 by 4 studdings.

One day we went to Holden to get some groceries. While Mary was buying them, I got involved with other things, and completely forgot that I was married and started for home leaving Mary in the store with a sack of flour. etc. I passed the railway tracks and the highway when I realized something was wrong. I quickly turned back to pick her up, not saying a word about what had happened.

We struggled on, with Mary teaching and I farming, milking any cow that had a calf. Did you ever try milking a bunch of range cows, kicking in all directions!



Nick and Mary Laskoski, Cecilia and Monica.

Later, when our two daughters were born, Cecilia and Monica, Mary quit teaching till both of the girls were of school age. She went back teaching in Holden and the girls rode with her. I stayed home and farmed, bought more land, bigger machinery, and took our annual holiday, as long as we were back home for all the evening chores. In 1976 we all went to Hawaii, Fiji and Australia.

In 1978 Mary retired from teaching. We still live in our same house on the farm seven miles south of Holden and are still farming.

Cecilia, a graduate of Holden High School, obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the U. of A. After working as a Community Pharmacist in Jasper, Alberta, she took a post graduate hospital pharmacy residence in London, Ontario. She is currently a pharmacy supervisor at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Adventurous travel (including a camping safari in Africa) remains one of her major interests.

Monica, also a graduate of Holden High School, received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the U. of A. After travelling extensively through Australia, Europe and Asia, she is currently working as the personnel administrator at A.C.T. Computer Services Ltd. in Edmonton.



Helen and Pete Dolany.

Helen (Dolaney), after completing her education at Scona School stayed home to help on the farm. She married Pete Dolaney and they farmed northeast of Daysland. They have three children, Betty, Billy and Rosalee who are all married. Helen and Pete are now retired and live in Daysland.

Stella (Wiwad), attended Holden High School and then married Stephen Billows. They had one child, Irene. Several years after her husband passed away, she left Irene in the care of her parents while she went to work in Edmonton. She was employed by the Provincial Government, then later attended McTavish College. After graduating, she worked for the Imperial Oil Co. After Stella's father passed away, Irene went to live with her mother and com-



Stella and Steve Wiwad.

pleted her high school in Edmonton. There she met and married Ron Anderson and they have three children. They live in Edmonton. Stella married Steve Wiwad and lives in Edmonton. In 1981 she retired from her employment with Imperial Oil and is strictly a homemaker.

Josie (Rule), attended public school at Scona and then stayed at home and helped her mother. At eigh-



Josie and George Rule and family.

teen she decided to see other horizons so she went to Vancouver, where she worked for the United Cigar Stores. She met and married George Rule in Vancouver, and they made their home there. They raised three children, Holly, Robert and Steven. Josie passed away in 1969.



Ken and Agnes Parks.

Agnes (Parks), attended public school at Scona and worked in Edmonton for several years. Pursuing her career as a cook and baker, she went to Vancouver and there worked with some very prominent chefs. She met and married Ken Parks in Vancouver and they still live there. She is now managing a famous English restaurant. They raised two children. Douglas is married to Cindy Melnyk and they have two children. Brian is single.

Peter passed away at the age of seventeen, in 1935 after an operation.



Rose and Jack Beatty and sons Stephen and Billy.

Rose (Beatty) attended Holden High School and then entered the school of nursing at the Vegreville Hospital. After graduating she remained there for a short time. She then nursed at Kamloops and later took a post graduate course at Vancouver General. After completion, she worked in Camrose for a time and after meeting Jack Beatty she moved to Ontario where she worked as hospital matron at Bellville, Ontario.

She met and married Jack Beatty and they live at Woodstock, Ontario. There she continued nursing and later pursued further studies in heart surgery at a Toronto university. She now nurses part-time and devotes the rest of her time to student training. Rose and Jack raised two children, Stephen and Billie.

Leo, the youngest son, attended public school at Scona, after which he farmed with his father on the home place.

After his father passed away in 1954, he looked after his widowed mother for a few years, then bought her a house in the town of Holden where she



Olga and Leo Laskoski.

retired. He farmed alone for a short period of time. He then met Olga Hunzak, and they were married and farmed together for several years. Later he purchased a house in Camrose, took a job at St. Mary's Hospital, and rented his land. He enjoyed his job and made frequent visits to the farm. In 1971 he suffered a brain hemorrhage and was rushed to the University Hospital in Edmonton where surgery was performed. A few weeks later he passed away. Leo and Olga had two children, Larry (adopted) and David.



Emily and Jim Kiernan, Shaun and Sharon.

Emily (Kiernan) attended Holden High School then worked in a bank at Athabasca. While there she took a six month course at Alberta College, and later transferred to Edmonton, where she met and married Jim Kiernan. They lived in Edmonton until her passing in 1983. They had two children, Sharon was employed at the Canadian Commercial Bank. Shawn passed away at the age of six in 1966.

Elizabeth (Hunka), married George Hunka in Edmonton in 1959, and they have made their home in Bonnyville, Alberta. George owned and managed Able Electric Ltd. They have a family of four children, Michael, Linda, Darrin and Gary.



George and Elizabeth Hunka and family.

Laskosky, John G.

John G., the fifth child of George and Pearl Laskosky, was born in 1913. He was raised on his parents' homestead five miles south of Holden. He left home at sixteen when jobs were scarce, and he spent time riding railway boxcars between odd jobs and odd places. He ran a threshing machine north of



Frances, Myrtle and John Laskosky.

Unity, Saskatchewan. In 1936, he built and operated a gas station north of Lea Park, on the North Saskatchewan River for two years. Then he built another south of St. Walburg, Saskatchewan. Two years later he returned to Holden and worked as a licensed mechanic, first in Dick Farrell's G.M. garage, then George Black's Ford garage and finally for Kallal Motors in Holden and Tofield. After nine years as a mechanic John bought a truck and went trucking on the exciting new Alaska Highway in 1943. In 1944 he used the truck to haul grain and coal in the Holden area.

In the fall of 1942, Frances Schell arrived in this area from Unity, Saskatchewan. Her first stop was Koppel's Store in Bruce, where she bought heavy men's socks and boots. These were to be worn while doing chores for Henry Kjosness, who needed fifteen cows milked for two weeks, while he went to Unity to marry Frances's friend, Margaret. After that Frances came to Holden and worked as a housekeeper for a lawyer and his wife, Tom and Betty White. Following that she worked as a waitress and cook at a number of local restaurants.

Frances and John met at a dance in the Holden Community Hall. They were married in 1944 and their only daughter, Myrtle, was born a year later. She attended school in Holden and went on to become a registered nurse. Myrtle and her husband, Tom Iwaskow, reside in Holden, in the house her grandparents lived in when they moved to Holden in

1949. Frances and John have three grandchildren, Martin, Karen and Abigail.

As a carpenter John has built many homes during the last thirty-two years, as well as round and hip-roofed barns. He also built the former Holden Post Office, the Roman Catholic Church and worked on the construction of the Holden Complex.

Frances, a seamstress since childhood, started sewing as a career shortly after coming to Holden. Her present Singer sewing machine was purchased in 1943 for \$29.00 from Mrs. Harry Micklich. It has seen many suits, dresses and pants of as equally many shapes, styles and sizes over the years, and still keeps busy on the occasional afternoon.

Frances and John continue to reside in Holden among their family and friends.

Laskosky, Wm. J.

by Nick Laskoski

Wm. J. Laskosky was born on the farm six miles south of Holden, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Laskosky. He attended Vermillion Valley School. After completing school, he worked on the farm with his dad and the rest of the family. His young years on the farm were spent working with horses and he also remembers the hard thirties. As the younger members were growing up, William bought a quarter of



William J. and Emily Laskosky, Elmer and Lawrence.

land, that is NE-13-48-17, and shortly after, met and married Millie Howrish. There they built a house and moved onto their farm. They raised a family of two sons, Lawrence and Elmer who attended Palmer School. After the sons grew up they went to work in the city. William sold out and he, too, worked in the city for a number of years. Finally he retired and moved back to Holden with his wife. They are living in a Northview Manor apartment. From there, he still keeps active and goes out to help with some farm work for his neighbors.

Laube, Adolf and Anna Family

Adolf Laube came to Canada from Russia in 1927. In 1928 in Wilkie, Saskatchewan he married Anna Sagert. To this marriage were born five children, one daughter Lillian Dora (deceased), and four sons, David, Leonard, Reuben and Herman. They farmed in Neilberg, Sask. for one year. In the spring of 1929, they moved to Holden and rented the Myer Black farm for one year. In 1930 they rented the Chris Christensen farm southeast of Holden. They lived there for fifteen years and later purchased it.



Adolph and Anna Laube (1928).

The family lived in a log house for a while, and later bought a small house and added on as needed. At first Adolf farmed with horses, and Anna remembers a time having to chase after them on horseback. Later he purchased an old Twin City tractor on steel wheels. Later he bought a 1948 John Deere tractor on rubber. Adolf and his boys spent many hours clearing the brush around the farm area and broke up the land with a breaking plough.

Times were hard. A can of cream brought one dollar and ninety cents and a fifteen dozen crate of eggs sold for seventy five cents. To make ends meet, Anna raised turkeys and ducks, up to one hundred at a time. She and the boys also milked up to twenty three cows by hand.

To get ready for the hard winters meant a lot of hard work. The neighbours would get together to saw enough wood to last until spring, and in the fall they would go by horse and sleigh to take wheat to the flour mill in Mundare for flour.

The boys attended the West Bruce School. They used the old family horse, Pearl, and would haul water every day for the school, for five dollars a month. Reuben remembers going on horseback in the morning, to start the fire in the school for seven dollars a month.

The family attended the Bruce Emmanuel Lutheran Church where the boys were all baptized, confirmed and married.



Adolph and Anna Laube's 50th Anniversary.

Adolf and Anna enjoyed everything about the farm, and Adolf especially enjoyed raising pigs. In 1971 they retired from the farm due to Adolf's failing health. He now resides at the Nursing Home in Viking, and Anna lives in the village of Holden.

David and his wife Luise, (originally from Yugoslavia) were farming the former Charlie Lamb



David and Louise Laube (1960).

farm, NW 6-49-15-W4. In 1967 they moved to Edmonton where they are still residing. David is supervisor of the laundry department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.



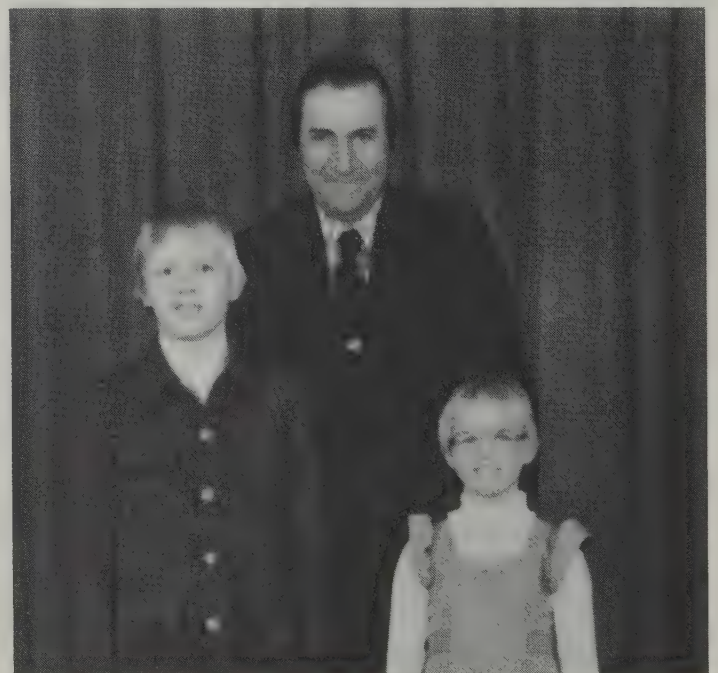
Leonard and Lorraine Laube.

Leonard, his wife Lorraine (nee Nordstrom) and two children Jacqueline and Keith, are now residing on the former Walter Stokowski farm NE 31-48-15-W4. Leonard was a county councillor for a few years and now farms and drives a school bus.



Reuben and Sonja Laube, Kathy and Laurie (1978).

Reuben, his wife Sonja (born in Maribor, Yugoslavia) and two girls Kathy and Laurie, are now living on Reuben's parents' farm, SE 6-49-15-W4. Besides farming Reuben drives the school bus and the snowplow.



Herman Laube, Grant and Rebecca (1978).

Herman resides in Holden. He has two children Grant and Becky. He drove a school bus for several years and now farms the former Isaac Komarnisky farm NW 20-48-15-W4.

Laube, Helene **by Anna Laube**

Helen Laube was born in Andrejow in the Ukraine in 1900. With her husband Rudolf and children Edmund, Adoline, Olga and Louise. She emigrated from West Germany to Holden in 1953. For eleven years she lived with her eldest son Adolf on a farm near Bruce, then with her son Edmund on a farm west of Holden and later in Edmonton. In 1973 she came to Holden where she resided until her death in 1980 at the age of 80.



Mrs. Helene Laube.

Mrs. Laube's main interests were her home and garden. She bought an older house and with help from her family and money saved from her pension, she turned it into a comfortable home. Early in the new year, tomato and other seeds were planted. In July she picked ripe tomatoes from her garden as well as other vegetables and beautiful flowers. House plants adorned her home. She enjoyed visits from her family and friends. As visitors left they were often given a plant, flowers or vegetables.

Outside interests centered around services at the Lutheran Church and meetings at Holden Seniors Club.

Documentaries, travel films and political forums were Helene's favorite T.V. programs. She enjoyed discussing these programs with her friends as well as relating incidents of her hardships in war-torn Europe. During war years, as she was required to move from country to country, she learned several languages.

Helene Laube was a generous, intelligent lady, a good neighbor and friend.

Leibbrandt, Gustave **by Ida (Leibbrandt) Case**

In the fall of 1914, the Gustave Leibbrandt family of St. Francis, Kansas, moved to Alberta where they settled on a farm near Holden (SW 23-50-15).

This was the second trip Mr. and Mrs. Leibbrandt made, having emigrated from Russia to America somewhere around 1881.

As I recall, Adams School was the school my brother Reuben and I attended. We walked to and from school daily. The weather was so cold and, my brother not covering his face sufficiently, received frost-bite. The teacher immediately rubbed snow over his face to make him more comfortable. After that, my mother saw to it that it didn't happen again. This school building was also used for religious services. The church services were well attended even though the services of a regular pastor were not available. The laymen of the church community provided the necessary leadership. I am told the concern and interest of this community made a church building possible in later years.

My brother, Gottlieb, who is blind and deaf, is always willing to learn and re-learn. He is learning to play chess, not an easy game for the sighted, and certainly more difficult for one who is blind. With the use of a special chess set for the blind, Gottlieb is learning the strategy of moving bishops, knights and rooks. Skillful in weaving of baskets, he has resumed this craft work. His neat and flawless baskets are a testimony of the unconquerable human spirit.

Lemko, John

John Lemko was born in Hafford, Saskatchewan, in 1930. He took his public schooling at Langley and high school at Hafford. He married Jennie Halkowich in 1954, and they lived on a farm near Hafford. Here John farmed and worked for Shell Oil and then the National Grain Company. In 1958 they moved to Winnipegosis, Manitoba, where he was employed with National Grain. In 1959 they moved

back to Hafford where they lived for two years, then moved to Viking, Alberta for nine months before being transferred to Holden in 1961. He was an elevator agent and feed mill operator with National Grain and Cargill Grain for 19 years in Holden.

John served on the Village Council of Holden for two consecutive terms and he was the council representative on the Board of the Beaver Foundation being instrumental in the construction of the Holden Senior Citizens Lodge and Northview Manor.

John and Jean had four children, Jerrold, Sharon, Cathy and Jamie.

Jerrold married Anita Erickson of Bruce, Alberta, daughter of Bud and Diane Erickson. They live in Vegreville and have two sons, Jonathon and Shawn. Jerrold is employed as a surveyor with Alberta Power and Anita enjoys playing in the Erickson family band.

Sharon married Michael Bohaychuk of Vegreville, Alberta, son of Peter and Mary. They live in Edmonton where Sharon is employed as a medical secretary and Michael as an engineering technologist.

Cathy has attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and has completed a Biological Sciences Program and is employed at the Vegreville Environmental Centre.

Jamie is still at home attending the Holden Junior High School. He is active in hockey and volleyball.

John passed away in 1981 and Jean still lives in the community and is employed at the Holden Senior Citizens Lodge.

Leungh, Carl and Johanna

Carl Leungh was born in Norway in 1872 and Johanna in 1869. They were married in Norway and immigrated to Stillwater, Minnesota, where their daughter Marie was born. In about 1913 they came to the Holden area and farmed northeast of Holden. In December, 1914 their little daughter Marie passed away, leaving a very lonely home.

In 1919 they sold out and returned to Norway, but in 1920 they came back to Holden, spending the summer with the Alfred Hurum family, while Carl herded cattle and decided what he wanted to do.

He purchased the S.W. fifty five acres of N.W. 13-49-16-W4, where he built a house and a barn. Here he started a dairy business, selling milk and cream to the village until 1935, when his health gave out. He sold his dairy herd but continued to live there until he passed away in 1937.

Johanna continued to live in their home for several years. They were members of the Lutheran Church and Johanna a most faithful Ladies' Aid member. She always enjoyed company dropping in



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Leung.

for coffee until she entered Bethany Home in Bawlf. She lived there until she passed away in 1948.

Liber, Tom and Mary by Helen (Liber) Hrabec

My father, Tom, oldest son of John and Anna (Rochanski) Liber, came to Canada to the Beaverlake area at the age of two and a half years. He married Mary Stefura of Round Hill in 1921. They had a family of five girls and two boys. The children received their education in Mundare School.

In 1946 Ann married Alex Melnyk, owner operator of C. N. Transport. They live in Edmonton, and have three children. Alex passed away in 1981.



Tom Liber family: Sylvia, Joan, Olga, Anne, Marvin, Helen, Mrs. Liber, Mr. Liber.

Lee, a former W.A.C., married Robert Friesen, a professional engineer in 1948. They have two daughters all living in Castlegar, B.C.

Johnny died of scarlet fever at a very young age.

Joan, a beauty shop operator in Westaskiwin, married Charles (Bud) Braglin, in 1963, an auto body repair man. Bud passed away in 1973. Joan married Clarence Radomski in 1978, and they live in Vernon, B.C.

Helen, married Peter Hrabec of Holden, in 1950. (see Peter Hrabec history)

Marvin, a construction superintendent, married Marion Hadfield of Sutton Surrey, England in 1959, and they have two children. Marion passed away in 1978.

Sylvia Tanasiuk, a Treasury Branch Credit Assistant, attended Holden High School 1956-57. She has a daughter and lives in Edmonton.

Mother and Dad, who had farmed in the Mundare area, retired in 1957 and lived with us until 1958. Then they moved to Vegreville, where they lived for nine years. In 1967 they purchased a home in Holden and resided there until 1972. They loved gardening and supplied the Roman Catholic Church with fresh cut flowers all summer. They moved to Edmonton and resided in a lodge until their passing, Mother in July 1979 and Dad in August 1980.

Liden Family

T. A. and Signe Liden began their married life in Irma where Mr. Liden managed a general store owned by Lars Larsen. The following year Mr. Larsen and Mr. Liden purchased the O. Osborne General Store in Holden.

T. A. and Signe Liden arrived in Holden in the early spring of 1926. They were accompanied by



Liden family, 1940. T. A., Clare, Signe, Ardis, Audre.

their baby daughter Vera and Signe's eleven year old sister Elinor Erickson.

The happy birth of their son, Clare, in March of 1926 was overshadowed by the sudden death of little Vera Viola in April in 1926. Vera was buried in the Holden Cemetery. The family lived above their store from the time of their arrival until 1931 when they purchased the Brown residence. (Just west of the telephone office). During this time, a daughter, Jean-nine Audre, was born in 1930. A second Ardis Yvonne, was born in 1932. Elinor, Clare, Audre and Ardis received their public school education in Holden. During their years in Holden, T. A. and Signe took an active part in the community life of Holden.



Elinor Erickson and Mrs. Liden — 1926.

They participated in operettas, plays, and in curling. T. A. was chairman of the school board and served on the United Church board. Signe and T. A. were very active in all aspects of the United Church and Signe was a faithful member of the United Church Ladies Aid. During their forty five years in Holden, Signe and T. A. purchased the McLean-Erickson house in 1958-59 and lived there until their retirement in 1971. T. A. died in June of 1971 and was buried in the Holden Cemetery. Signe moved to the Pioneer court in Sherwood Park where she lived until her death in 1972. She was also buried in the Holden Cemetery. Their children and grandchildren continue to cherish

the memories of their beloved parents and grandparents and of the years spent in Holden.

Elinor continued her education at the McTavish Business College in Edmonton. She married Lew R. Blair in 1940 in the Holden United Church. They have two children, Karin and David. Karin is married to Brian Heibert, has one daughter Adoree and one son Aaron. They are currently living in Fort McMurray where Brian is employed by Syncrude. David is married to Yvonne Pederssen and they have one daughter Kirsten and one son Robert. David is with the Calgary Police Force. After forty five years of services, Lew retired from the C.P.R. Lew and Elinor are now living in the Pioneer Court in Sherwood Park, Alberta. They enjoy numerous senior citizen activities including swimming, Yoga, cross country skiing and traveling.

Clare received a B.A. with a L.L.B. degree in 1951 from the University of Alberta. He opened his own law firm in 1952 and was senior partner for twenty six years until his appointment as an Assistant Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta in 1980. Clare married Jane Emery in 1954 and they have four children, David, Nancy, Peter and Robert. David is a lawyer with a Vancouver law firm, Nancy is a teacher with the Edmonton Public School Board, Peter is a first year university student and Robert graduates from high school in 1982.



Harold Giebelhaus family, 1980. Standing: Brian, Anne Marie. Seated: Elizabeth Giebelhaus, Audre and Harold.

Audre graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Ed. in 1953. She taught the following year in Edmonton and was married in the summer of 1954 to Harold Giebelhaus of Holden. While Harold farmed in the Adams district, Audre continued to teach in Holden until 1959. They moved into the Burnstad-Hagerud acreage in the fall of 1955. A

daughter, Anne Marie, was born in 1960. Brian Peter was born in 1962. Both children attended the Holden School until 1971 when the family moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta. Audre is currently teaching in Sherwood Park and Harold is a salesman for Sanfax Industries Ltd. Anne Marie graduated in 1982 with a B.Ed. degree. Brian graduated from Grant MacEwan Community College with a Diploma in Business Administration.



Gordon Hafso family: Scott, Marc, Kirsten, Gordon and Ardis.

Ardis graduated from the University of Alberta in 1954 with a B.A. She married Gordon Hafso of Viking, Alberta in the summer of 1954 and moved immediately to North Hollywood, California where they both taught in a Lutheran parochial school. Gordon received his Master's and continued his work as a teacher, Minister of Music, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of North Hollywood for twenty two years. During that time Marc, Kyrsten and Scott were born. Marc holds a B.Ed. degree and has taught in Washington and Grand Prairie. He was married to Judy Pearson in 1981. Marc and Judy will return in the fall of 1982 to Tacoma where Marc will begin a Master's program in conducting and voice. Kyrsten has managed stores and is currently in the clothing/fashion field in California. Scott in second year music at Concordia College plans to complete his degree at the U. of A. Gordon and Ardis returned to Edmonton to live in 1976. Gordon accepted a teaching position with Concordia Faculty of Music. Ardis received her Graduate Diploma in Elementary Reading in 1978. She is currently principal of Ellerslie School.

Ligard, Don Family

Don and Marilyn Ligard and family Kai, Sara and Owen, moved to the Joe Sroka farm in 1978 from Sherwood Park. It had been a dream of two people from the city to "get back to the land" and try farming. The fall they moved in was one of the wettest for a number of years. It was a good orientation to how much "land," in the form of mud can



The Don Ligard family.

come into the back porch in one season! Marilyn worked as Home Care Nurse in the Holden area for three years while Don commuted back and forth to Edmonton to get the farming enterprise on its feet. A move to Saskatchewan interrupted the farm's progress for a short while.

The Ligards truly have a mixed farm with cows, sheep, chickens, pigs and even a rabbit. The children attend Holden School. Marilyn now works at Daysland Hospital and was head nurse there for a year. Don is farming full time and doing occasional electrical jobs. They are all active in Zion Lutheran Church, and in the community through different sporting programs. Although the going has not always been easy they have always been happy with their move to Holden and have made many true and fast friends here.

Lindbeck Family

Carl Simonson Lindbeck with wife Sina and family of four came to Holden around 1910. He was a

brother to Mrs. Sorine Christensen and Mrs. Martha Christoffersen. Later four more children were born.

The children were:

Emma married Alfred Sandstrom and lives in Nanton. They have six children. Christian was married to Dorothy Glasgow of Irma (now deceased). He



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lindbeck on his 70th birthday.

now lives in Battle River Lodge in Wainwright. They had three children. Peter married Elsie Hjesvold of Viking and they live there. There are two daughters. Minna married T. Rasmusson, a Danish boy who used to work for Thomas Christensen. They are living at Fort Langley, B.C. and have a son Charles and a daughter Gladys. Christine married John Hansen who worked for Campbells. They live in Sardis, B.C. and have seven children. Serena married Johannes Hansen, a brother to John, who also worked for Norman Campbell. They have seven children and live in Edson. Lillian is married to Bert Siegel. They have three daughters, Dolores Hammermaster of Bruce, Darlene Doddridge of Victoria, B.C. and Donna McKinney also of Bruce. Ernest married Joey O. K. Kerman of Holland. He passed away in Ryley in 1957. He left one son Ernest Jr. who is with the R.C.M.P. at Airdrie.

Mr. Lindbeck passed away in 1951 and Mrs. Lindbeck in 1963. They are both buried in Golden Valley Cemetery at Viking.



Back Row: Hans Christensen, Minna Lindbeck, Carl Lindbeck, Sorine Christensen. Middle Row: Christine Lindbeck, Mrs. Lindbeck, Serena Lindbeck. Front Row: Ernest and Lillian Lindbeck.

Logan, Edwin

Edwin Christian Logan was born in Naeroy, Norway in 1878. He immigrated to Camden, North Dakota in 1904; his sister Hilda was living there at the time. Ed operated a livery stable there until 1906, when he moved to Holden, Alberta (Vermillion Valley at that time). His mother lived here and brother Ole also Gus and Bergit Logan. Ed homesteaded on NW 4-49-16.



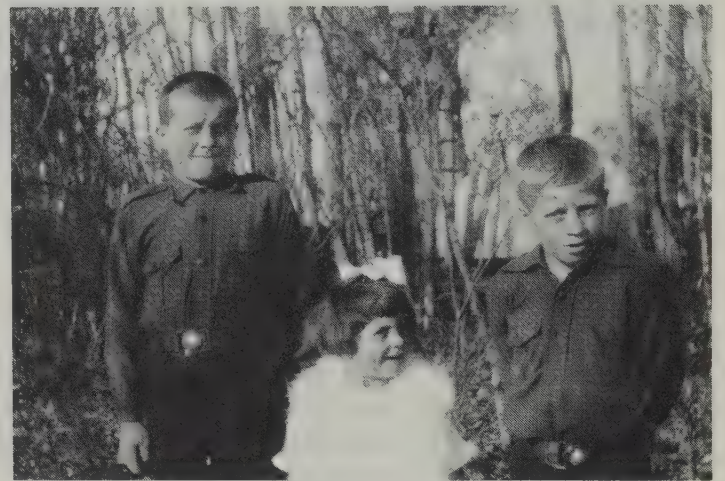
Back Row: Ed Logan, Inga Chetney, Ella Grasdahl and baby, Ludvig Sandbeck, Alfred Logan. 2nd Row: Standing: Ethel Chetney, George Valan holding George Logan, Viola Grasdahl (sitting), Mrs. Logan holding Helen, and two men.

Borghild Amanda Wold came to Canada from Norway in 1907. She came over with Aunt and Uncle Olaf and Ingeborg Wold and their family (Ivor, Carl, Fritz, John and Einor). Ivor Wold homesteaded west of Holden and the family lived there until 1912 when they moved to Sexsmith. Borghild went to school and worked in Holden until her marriage to Ed Logan in 1912. They settled on his homestead and farmed until 1952 when they retired to Holden because of Ed's failing health. He passed away in 1957. Ed and

Borghild had two sons and two daughters, all of whom attended Vermillion Valley School.

Elmer, the eldest son was born in 1913. He attended Vermillion Valley School and graduated from Holden High School. He graduated with a law degree in 1938 and was the youngest lawyer to be admitted to the bar at that time (25 years of age). He practised law in Viking, and at the outbreak of war, he was appointed by the government to head the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. (This happened when he tried to enlist; he was with the Canadian Officers Training Corp.) He married Grace Watt, a teacher, in Edmonton. They had four sons, Bruce, Merritt (who passed away in 1980), Dwight and Kim. They also had five grandchildren. After the war Elmer moved to Grande Prairie where he started a law firm and was involved in a hotel business. He passed away in 1980 after a three-year battle with cancer.

Albert, second son of Borghild and Ed was a hockey player in his earlier years. He took an electrical welding course and worked for various oil companies before he retired. He married Nellie McNiel and now lives in Edmonton.



Elmer and Abner Logan with sister Helen (1925).

Helen trained at the Misericordia Hospital, graduating as a nurse in 1943. She was in the Reserve Army in Edmonton and worked at the Colonel Belcher Military Hospital in Calgary and St. Anne de Bellevue Military Hospital in Quebec. She also worked in hospitals at Magrath, Red Deer and Peace River before joining the Weinlos Clinic. In 1950 Helen married Raoal Fortin, a hotel man from Edson, and lived in Edmonton until 1954 when they moved to Vancouver where Mr. Fortin operated several hotels. They have two sons, Robert and Bryan and one grandson. Helen was police nurse with the Vancouver Police Department until her retirement.

Gladys married Leon Hladilo, and they farmed south of Holden until they moved to Kelowna, where

they now reside. They have one daughter, Jean (Mrs. Sid Pervo) an apprentice stationary engineer and a son, Douglas, an apprentice mechanic. They have two grandsons.

Borghild Logan and Olaf Chetney were married in 1958 and resided on his farm northwest of Holden. When Olaf's health began to fail, they moved to Holden where they lived until his passing.

Olaf was born in Tiller, Norway in 1890, where he received his education and then operated a bakery. In 1916, he came to America and worked in a bakery in North Dakota. The following year he came to Canada and bought land from Charlie Brisbin. He became a well known farmer, councillor for the M.D. of Beaver, active curler and a charter member of the Elks Lodge.

Logan, Gustav by Myrtle Logan

Gustav Logan was born in Naro, Norway in 1885. He immigrated to the United States where he met and married Bergit Ronning in Inwood, Iowa.

Bergit was born in Hemsedal Gol, Norway on February 12, 1877. She left Norway in 1901 to join her sister who lived in Iowa.

The couple decided to move to Canada shortly after their marriage in 1903. They filed on a homestead in the Holden district. Their nearest Post Office was Martins, located in the P. P. Kjosness Store.

In the early homestead years, Mrs. Logan was very active in the Lutheran Ladies' Aid and was one of the very few remaining members that helped organize the building of the present Holden Lutheran Church.

The Logans had six children.

Louis Logan married Nellie Knudson. They are retired and live in Sexsmith, Alberta. They have four daughters and two sons.

William G. (Bill) Logan married Myrtle Nowodvorski. Refer to William G. (Bill) Logan History.

Olaf Logan married Mary Chamulke. They are retired and live in Westlock, Alberta. They raised a family of five sons and four daughters.

Henry Logan married Ruth Anderson. They are retired and reside in Edmonton, Alberta. They have two children, Valerie and Roger.

Melvin Logan married Marian Gauche. Melvin is retired and lives in Nanaimo, B.C. They had one son and three daughters.

Atlanta married Hugh Russell. They are retired and reside in Edmonton, Alberta. They have one daughter, Carol.

Gustav Logan became ill and passed away on July 2, 1919. He was buried in the Holden Cemetery.

In 1928 Bergit Logan married Thomas Thoreson.

They lived in the Hamlet of Bruce, Alberta. Mr. Thoreson passed away, and Mrs. Thoreson continued living in Bruce until 1952 when she took up residency at Vialta Lodge in Viking, Alberta. She passed away on October 27, 1970 at the age of ninety-three years. She was survived by her six children, twenty-five grandchildren and thirty-nine great grandchildren.

Logan, William G. (Bill)

Bill was born in 1906 at Holden, Alberta. He received his education at Longridge School.

As a young man, Bill worked for Edward Christianson, Jim Cadger and Mr. Clark. Later, he was employed for several winters to make ice and take care of the Skating Rink in Holden.



William Logan family. Back Row: Bryan, Barbara, Ken. Second Row: Bill and Myrtle. Front Row: Cholly, Kristine, Raymond, Allette and Annette. Inset: Janice Logan.

In 1929 he rented his mother's farm and in 1933 he married Myrtle Nowodvorski in Edmonton.

Bill served on the Longridge School Board for many years with Neil Crimmin and Lloyd Andrews. He was also elected to the County of Beaver as Councillor and served a two year term.

In 1949 Bill and Myrtle moved to Edmonton where he was employed by Mr. Reid, Ex-Premier of Alberta. Bill later became involved with the Farmer's Union of Alberta and was elected to the Board. He served as Vice-President of the Farmer's Union of Alberta.

In 1959 they moved to Wetaskiwin, Alberta where Bill became a partner in Bill's Body Shop.

In 1964 they moved back to Edmonton where Bill was employed with K. Vet until his retirement.

Bill and Myrtle have three children.

Barbara Hickey is employed as secretary to Pro-

fessor Dr. Lemieux at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta. She lives on an acreage north of Stony Plain, Alberta.

Bryan married Allette Dickie and they live in Pennant, Saskatchewan. Bryan, a graduate Body Shop Mechanic owns and operates his own business. They have two children, Annette and Raymond.

Kenneth married Cholly Alger of the Philippines. He is a graduate in Architectural Technology and is presently employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton, Alberta. They have two daughters, Kristine and Janice.

Bill and Myrtle live in their home in the Bonnie Doon area in Edmonton, Alberta and are active in bowling, gardening and curling.

Loney, Lloyd and Dora

Lloyd and Dora Loney came from the U.S.A. to Canada in the early nineteen hundreds. They lived first south of Killam and later in the Bruce area. In



Lloyd and Dora Loney, 1949.

1923, with their two children Richard (Dick) and Frances they moved to the William Hayes farm in the Longridge district east of Holden. Richard and Frances attended Longridge School.

In 1927 the Loney family moved about four miles south to the Dean Procter farm immediately south of the C.N.R. water tower. The children now went to school at West Bruce.

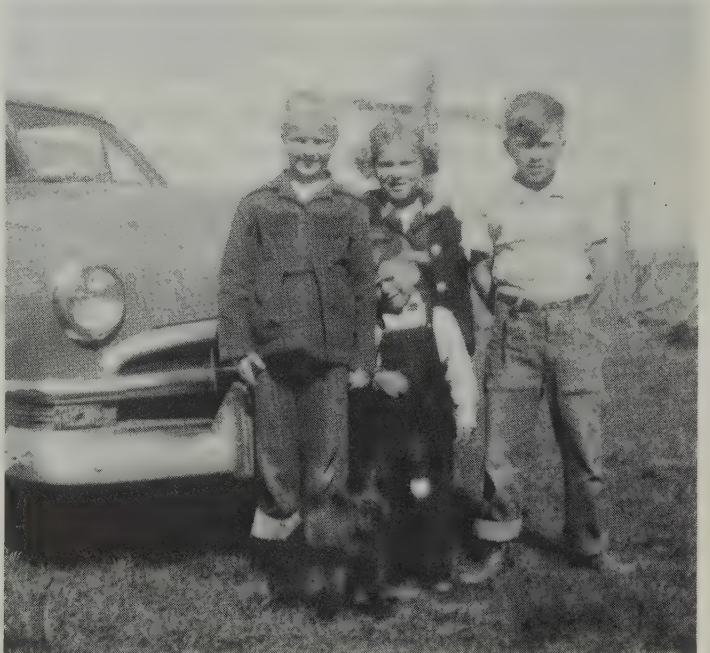


Richard, Mrs. Loney, Von, Mr. Loney and Frances, 1948.

In the meantime the Loneys purchased section 21 which brought them back to Longridge district, where they lived for many years.

Lloyd and Dora Loney have five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren who live in various places in Alberta.

Richard Loney served as policeman for the Village of Holden from 1944 to 1948. Upon leaving the police service he became a bus driver. After 32 years of service he retired with several Safety Awards. He now lives in Camrose.



Loney grandchildren. Sherry Ann, Marile, Everett and Jim.



Dick Loney — Last run from Macklin, Saskatchewan to Edmonton for Greyhound Bus Lines, May 12, 1980.

Ludwig, Marion and Phyllis

In 1962 Marion Ludwig and Phyllis Skitsko tied the knot. We farmed for nine years in the Chipman area. We lived seven years on our farm. In 1968 we sold our farm to Robert Orbeck of Edmonton. We then rented three quarters of land owned by Peter Ewasiuk of Edmonton. Since the yard was quickly rented to another family, we were forced to rent a farmyard for one year from Jerry Choma of Hilliard. The following summer Marion went to work for one



Ludwig family. Back Row: Ken, Marion, Phyllis. Front: Sandra, and Marilyn.

year on a farm for Guenter Bork of Edmonton. By this time we had three children.

In May of 1971 we moved to Holden where we bought the farm of Mike Hrabec presently of Vegreville. Here Marion and I, with our family started to look forward to a brighter future. The first few years here were very hard.

Marion has been with the oil industry for approximately 25 years now. This meant that every winter he would be working out for about three months. Along with the good neighbours, our family and I managed to survive until each spring.

Marion started as a roughneck on the rigs and worked his way up to a driller in 1969. In 1972 he went to work for Christensen Diamond Products (a world-wide company) as a consultant. His job took him all over Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Ontario, Bolivia, and Australia.

In July 1960 after graduating from Lamont High School I worked for Archer Memorial Hospital, Lamont, as a stenographer for four years. At that time we started to raise our family.

Our oldest child, Ken, has now completed his matriculation and is home on the farm with us. Ken will be going back with the sea Cadets for the whole summer to Gimli, Manitoba. He has worked his way up to be an assistant sailing instructor. His job is to teach younger cadets to sail. However, his aim is to become a machinist.

Our oldest girl, Marilyn is now in grade 10. Marilyn has gone with the Sea Cadets to Quadra, B.C. and Vernon, B.C. for the past two summers.

Our youngest girl, Sandra, is presently in grade seven and hopes to join cadets next year.

Lukawiecki, Walter and Nancy submitted by the Lukawiecki Family

Walter Lukawiecki was born in 1901 to Michael and Joanna (Kominski) in Wola Czarnokoniecka, Kopycznce, Poland, where he received his education in both Polish and Ukrainian. He had two brothers and four sisters. In 1918 Walter volunteered to serve in the Ukrainian cavalry. In 1923 he was drafted to serve in the Polish cavalry. In 1925 Walter came to the Vegreville district where he spent some time with his sister Mary and her husband Kyrolo Korpan.

Nancy (Anastasia), the first child of Henrietta (Kubin) and Kyrylo Korpan, was born in 1907, about twelve miles west of Vegreville. She can trace her roots to Borschiw, Ukraine from where both parents came. When Nancy was four and her sister, Annie (Andrychuk) two years, their mother died. Her father remarried and in due time she had three brothers and seven sisters. Nancy received her education in Leachville and Moscow Schools with one winter in



Lukawiecki family: Nancy and Walter, Marian and Albin, 1939.

the Mundare Monastery. At the age of thirteen, she was withdrawn from school to help with the household chores and farm work.

After Walter and Nancy were married, they worked for Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCallum, established farmers in the Mundare district. Walter looked after livestock and did field work while Nancy helped with the household chores. Their combined salary was about twenty-five dollars a month.

In 1928 acting upon the advice of a friend, Alex Cedor, the Lukawieckis bought C.P.R. land, SW-33-39-15 in the Longridge district. Walter and Nancy with their small daughter Marian left McCallums with all their worldly goods: a wagon containing their few household and personal goods, 4 horses, a cow and a calf, a rooster and eleven hens, a plow, harrows and a small seed drill. Their first task was to complete an unfinished log house, then build shelters for the animals. Stables and the chicken house were insulated all over with 2 feet of straw held in place by poplar and willow poles. At first they depended on sloughs, rainwater and melted snow for water supply. Later a succession of shallow wells, 10 to 12 feet deep with board cribbing supplied the water. Many hours were spent drawing water by pail and pulley for the livestock. Light was provided by coal oil lamps.

Since the farm had only a few acres of cultivated

land, Walter had to hand clear patches of bush and trees and hire neighbors to break the land. Then Walter and Nancy picked all the roots and stones before the land was ready for seeding crops. Some roots were hauled home for firewood for the cook stove and the round tin heater.

One of the fall chores was butchering a hog. The meat was stored in a barrel buried in the wheat in the granary — this was Lukawieckis deep freeze. Their fridge was the water well where they lowered the dairy products in a pail to just above the water. Another fall chore was the annual journey Walter made to the Mundare Flour Mill — about 40 miles away, with sacks of wheat to be ground into the year's supply of flour and cereal.

Disaster struck several times during those early years. In 1928 their first crop and garden froze. In 1929 there was a drought. Income was meagre. To supplement this Walter sold hay and cut the bush along the road allowance. He worked with his horses on the municipal road construction crew. His wages were applied toward taxes.

At last in 1930 — a bumper crop — but due to the depression, the price of wheat fell from \$1.25 to 18¢ a bushel. There were severe hailstorms in 1931, 1945, 1947, 1949 and 1951. In 1947 the storm uprooted trees, totally destroyed the crop and damaged granaries.



Walter, Nancy, Marian (Lukawiecki) and Bill Bober, Mrs. Bober.

With optimism, self sacrifice, hard work, perseverance and the good years the Lukawieckis overcame the hardships and disappointments. Walter gradually expanded his mixed farming. Nancy was busy with her share of the work. She helped with the haying, stooking, milking, fed pigs, attended to the home-incubated chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys; made soap, sewed clothes, chopped wood, picked berries and mushrooms, made butter and cottage cheese and cooked for large threshing crews.

Prosperous years came especially during World

War II when the economy was booming. A new barn was built in 1940. In 1944 a quarter section was purchased from Bill Logan and the final payment was made on the first quarter. In 1941 a 200 ft. deep well was drilled and in 1942 a windmill erected. Today, though electricity is used, the windmill still stands, a landmark and a sentinel! The new house was built by local contractors, Adam and Con Giebelhaus in 1948, after Walter and Fred Loga had excavated the basement with a fresno pulled by four horses. Walter joined the Rural Electrification Association in the 1950's. At this time there was a gradual change from the use of horses to the tractor, truck and combine. He kept four horses mostly for sentimental reasons and sold them in the late sixties with great regret.

The combine (1957) brought big changes: no more binding with horses, no more stooking nor cooking for threshing crews. No more sounds of rattling hayracks, nor singing of the jovial crews.

Some of the social activities looked forward to were, the Christmas concert and the year end picnic at Longridge School, as well as the Holden sports and stampede. Attending the Holden Catholic Church services, parish dinners, weekly shopping and the occasional wedding provided an opportunity to meet friends and neighbors.

Walter and Nancy have two children, Marian and Albin. Both attended Longridge and Holden Schools



Albin Lukawiecki family. Back Row: Anona, Louise, Albin, Teresa and Andrea. Front Row: Vincent, Deidre.

as well as University of Alberta. Marian took Education and taught at Iron Creek, Poe, Amisk Creek, Bruce, Bluffton, Dapp, Derwent and Edmonton Schools. She married Bill Bober of Derwent in 1958. Currently they are living in Edmonton and working for Edmonton R.C. Separate School board. Albin worked part time on oil drilling rigs before farming

on the SE 29-49-15 which he bought from Henry J. Giebelhaus. In 1962 Albin married Louise Hubbard, a teacher, of Lavoy. They have five children: Anona and Teresa, attending university in Edmonton, Andrea attending Vegreville High School and Vincent and Deidre who are going to Holden School.

Walter loved farming to the end. He farmed his original farm for over fifty-one years until his passing in 1979. Nancy too, loves the farm and still resides there. To date she is the only original settler of the 1920's who is still living in the Longridge district. Walter and Nancy had a good life and were thankful for their many blessings.

Lundblad, Peter

The year was 1927, the month November, the town Wetaskiwin and the man who stepped off the train was Peter Jonas Lundblad. He was one of many immigrants arriving in Alberta at that time. Having basically an office work background in Sweden, I am sure he wondered what was to become of him in that rugged new country of farmers.

Jobs were scarce. He met Paul Moseson who offered him an inside job helping his wife around the house for the winter. In the spring Paul offered him the job of driving a tractor and breaking plow. This he did all summer and purchased same in the fall. In the spring he purchased a half section close to the town of Holden. All next summer he ran the tractor and plow, so he had a few dollars for the winter ahead. That winter he spent clearing his land with an axe and a lot of will. His first shack was constructed of shiplap with the south wall made only of tarpaper (he ran out of shiplap). For all his saving he had only about \$15 to tide him through the winter. This he spent on flour, salt, coffee and a few essentials. To augment his diet, he snared rabbits. That was the worst winter in his memory.



Pete Lundblad family: Gladys, Marlene, Ruth, Peter, Randy and Greta, 1944.

The next year his brother Enoch came to stay with him. Together they built a better shack. That year he broke enough land to put in his first crop. After a few more years and a lot more sweat and tears he had established himself as a farmer.

In 1933 he met and married his neighbor's daughter, Ruth Chamulke. They started to raise a family. Those were the good years. When neighbors got together they had good fun. Entertainment? On Saturday nights they would walk across the fields to John Wohl's, his neighbor to the north. He had a radio. They would huddle around it listening to the crackling voice of Charlie McCarthy. Sometimes they would walk to a dance at Longridge School. Those were lean years with few luxuries. Even so they saved some money and purchased their first car in 1939. Did I say car? It was a Hudson and it was used for everything including hauling cattle. The dealer had put a governor on it to limit the speed to 50 m.p.h. for the first year. I'm sure that with hauling cattle and family the governor wasn't really needed.

In 1946 he built his "Dream Home". Five bedrooms and hardwood floors! At that time power was still not available so he bought a 32 volt power plant. Mrs. Lundblad was both pleased and displeased. Pleased that the kerosene lamp could be put away, but she would still have to put up with the smelly gasoline motor on her washing machine for a while.

In 1950 Peter bought one of the first machines of its kind in the area, a baler. He still needed some way of getting the bales into the barn loft. While having coffee with his friend Oscar Fjellstrom they came up with an idea. In 1954 after much blacksmithing, tearing apart and rebuilding, a wooden bale conveyor was born, a first of its kind!

There were also some humorous incidents that occurred. Once he, (Peter) was driving home from Camrose in the second car of his lifetime, a 1959 Meteor. The roads were wet and slippery and he veered into a ditch filled with water. Well, the car was almost submerged when a nearby farmer pulled him out with his tractor. He also had to drain the water out of the car. When he got home I took all the seats, rugs etc. out to dry. We needed to go to Holden for groceries the next day. The interior was bare except for two 5-gallon pails that we sat on. Upon arrival in Holden and pulling up in front of T. A. Liden's store we got out and Mr. Liden noticed us and came over. Upon seeing the condition we were in he commented "Now I see how the other half lives!"

One Monday, in the fall of 1931, Peter was to appear in front of the district judge in Viking to obtain his Canadian Citizenship. It just so happened, that the Saturday previous, Peter was sitting in the Viking bar and chanced to strike up a conversation

with the judge he was to see on the following Monday. Wishing to save himself an extra trip, he bravely asked the judge if it would be possible to answer his questions right then and there. It would! He did! Peter Lundblad became the first new citizen to get his citizenship in the Viking bar!

One morning Peter came to the breakfast table after a party the night before. I observed that his hair had a more silvery appearance than usual. Upon looking at himself in the mirror after my comment he came running out of the bathroom with a wild-eyed look and exclaimed "By yiminy I put toothpaste on my hair instead of hair cream!"



Gary Lundblad and his dog.

Just one more humorous incident: once when returning home from Holden in 1968 Peter was involved in quite a serious accident with a gravel truck driven by Lefty Clark. The truck rolled over and landed upside down in a ditch. The car was hit broadside but miraculously stayed on its wheels. I can imagine that Dad was quite shaken up. Lefty was boiling mad as he crawled out of his truck because he had the right of way. He proceeded to the car to bawl Dad out. My father had on his bowler (straw) hat that day. When Lefty looked in the window, he saw tomatoes and celery strewn over the dash, but the funniest thing was Dad's hat. The brim had broken away and lay serenely around his neck. The top part miraculously had stayed on his head. He must have looked like the organ grinder's monkey! Anyway when Lefty saw this he started to laugh and forgot his anger.

Well, it's 1982 now and five children grew up and

were raised on that farm of his. I think we all appreciate the farm background and can look back and say about this office boy immigrant to Canada — he was a true pioneer.

Greta, the eldest, taught school for many years. She then took a nursing course to enable her to do missionary work in Nigeria. Gladys, a teacher, married Roy Teske, and they have two daughters, Kerry, a U. of A. student, and Susan in junior high. They live on an acreage near Sherwood Park. Roy has been employed with the Imperial Oil Refinery for 30 years. Marlene who became a nurse, lives in Edmonton and has one daughter, Elizabeth. Randy and Gary and their families live in Sherwood Park.

Peter and Ruth were divorced, and Ruth now lives in Edmonton. Peter enjoys living at Stony Creek Lodge in Camrose.

Lupino Family history

Lawrence and Katherine Lupino with their four children, Annie, Katie, John and Tony emigrated from Poland to Canada in 1911, arriving at Halifax after a stormy Atlantic crossing. They boarded a train to Calgary where Lawrence got work at sewer excavating, earning fifteen cents an hour. Lawrence worked in Calgary for an interval and then took up farming land at Altario, east of Calgary. After battling grasshoppers, dust storms and Russian thistle, they decided to move north to Mundare where they stayed for two years, then moved again to the Holden area to farm. While they were living in the Mundare area John Lupino met and married Tillie, daughter of Steve and Mary Korbyl. They lived a short time in the Coronation area where John had been farming. Due to drought, farming became impossible so they moved and ended up farming a quarter section in the Holden area. Times were tough for this was in the late twenties and most of the farming was done with horses. There was no crop insurance at this time and Tillie remembers being hailed out three years in a row. There were years when the crop yield was two or three bushels to an acre, as compared to an average of thirty to forty bushels an acre in the 1980's.

John and Tillie had four children; Steve was born in Mundare, and Mary, Joe and Evelyn were born in Holden.

Steve now resides in Daysland. He is married to Geraldine, daughter of Frank and Anne Yedlinski. They have two daughters, Gwendy Schwarz and Meredith. They also have two grandchildren, Sarah and Melissa Schwarz.

Mary Lupino (Szott) has retired to Camrose after farming in the Daysland area. She has three children, Vivian, Laverne and Doug. She also has four grand-

children, Mark Badry, Lane Moore, and Casey and Justin Szott.

Joe Lupino is still farming in the Holden area. Evelyn Lupino (Noble) is living in Edmonton and has one child, Beverly.

Lutz, Reinhold and Family

Reinhold Lutz was born in Volen, Russia, of German parents in 1905. In 1914, his father Julius Lutz immigrated to Canada and earned enough money to send for his family. However, World War I had broken out in Europe and the money for the fare was lost. As well, contact was also lost with the family, since they had been sent deep into Russia for the duration of the war. After the war, contact was again established, money for the fare was sent once more, and in 1922, Reinhold with his mother and two sisters arrived in Edmonton.



Reinhold Lutz family, 1954. Back Row: Ben, Alice, Gertrude. Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Lutz and Walter.

They all worked at a variety of jobs to earn a living. Reinhold remembers plucking chickens at a wage of two cents per bird as one of his jobs as a young man in Edmonton.

In 1924 the family moved to a farm southeast of Holden, in the Bruce district. The quarter section of land with buildings that they purchased for \$175.00 down payment had a total of 24 cultivated acres in seven different fields!

In 1933 Reinhold married Hilda Froehlich, who was also born in Volen, Russia of German parents. Hilda was born in 1912, and came to Edmonton in 1929. After her arrival in Canada, Hilda worked as a cook in the household of Judge Dubuc of Edmonton.

Reinhold and Hilda raised four children; Gertrude (Mrs. Erwin Hoffman of Edmonton), Alice (Mrs. Gene McKenzie of St. Lazare, Manitoba), Walter, and Benjamin, both of Holden.

Reinhold was good with horses, raising and breaking many of them. To make hay, he used a haybuck and drove two teams of horses simultaneously to pull the hay to a hay chute at the stack.



Reinhold Lutz on horseback beside McLaughlin Buick, 1928.

Large amounts of hay could be stacked quickly in this way.

Reinhold had an auction sale in 1948, rented his farm, and moved to B.C. with his family, where they operated a motel business for a number of years. In 1958, Reinhold and his family moved back out to the farm from B.C. In 1965, following the marriage of their son Walter to Inez Kauffman of the Tofield district, Reinhold and Hilda retired to Holden. This retirement lasted only two years, then they purchased and moved to the Art Siegel farm one and a half miles east of Holden. Reinhold and Walter farmed together from 1958 to 1972.

In 1972, Reinhold and Hilda purchased a home in Edmonton where they still reside today. Their youngest son, Ben, who married Betty Fraser of Tofield in 1964, resides on the farm near Holden.

Reinhold still enjoys the harvest season on the farm with his sons at Holden.

Macahonic, Tony

Tony, was the son of Steve and Lena Macahonic, who immigrated to Canada in 1902. Tony was born in 1905 in the Shaw School district, south of Ryley, where he took his schooling.

In 1925, Tony along with three other partners, Alex Dragon, Ben Steffan and Tom Macahonic opened the Ryley coal mine. In 1929 he sold his share in the coal mine.

About the year 1925 Tony bought his first McCormick Tractor which he used for custom land breaking. He broke many acres of land in the Holden, Haight, Ryley and Round Hill Districts.



Tony Macahonic's breaking outfit 1928.

In 1928, Tony married Annie Augustynovich, daughter of Metro and Teckla Augustynovich who homesteaded north of Holden. For the first twelve years Tony and Annie made their home at the Ryley Coal Mine, where he worked. During this time they had three children; Louis, John and Jean. In 1940, they took up farming and moved to a farm one mile east of the coal mine, where they lived for the next five years.

In 1945, they purchased a farm in the Poe District where they lived until retirement. During this time they had an addition to their family, a daughter Ionne. Their children took their schooling in Poe, Shaw and Ryley.



Tipple at Ryley Coal Mine 1938. Back Row: Alex Dragon, Mike Charkowski. 2nd Row: Julian Macahonic, Tony Macahonic, William Steffan, unknown. Front Row: Peter Pook, Harry Rudyk, unknown. Pat Kelly — Pit boss.

Tony and Annie retired from farming in 1974 and moved to Vegreville. Tony passed away in 1975 and Annie still resides in Vegreville.

Louis married Alice Tropak, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tropak of Inland, and lives in Vegreville. They have three children; Gary, Adele and David, and two grandchildren, Scott and Tara, children of Gary and Kim Macahonic.

John married Lillian Slywka, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Slywka of Haight, and lives on a farm north west of Holden. They have three children; Bruce, Christine and Evonne and two grandchildren, Candice and Cheryl, daughters of Bruce and Donna Macahonic.

Jean married Carl Eliasson and lives in Edmonton. They have two children, Doug and Tim.

Ionne married Jerry Rudy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rudy of Haight. Jerry and Ionne live in Sherwood Park and have two children, Raya and Darren.

MacGregor, Donald and Betty

Betty MacGregor (nee Koetke) was born on her parents' farm in 1905. Donald MacGregor was born in Michigan in 1906. His parents moved to Edmonton and later to the Thorhild district when Donald was sixteen, to take up homesteading.



Donald and Betty MacGregor.

Donald and Betty met at the Olds School of Agriculture in 1925 and were married in 1926. They lived at the farm near Thorhild until they returned to Betty's parents' farm (NW 27-47-16) in 1944. While at Thorhild, five children were born: Keith, Shirley, Milton, Grant and Marie. Stuart was born after their move back to the Sandstorm district.

From 1947 to 1949, Donald drove the first school bus in the municipality, from Sandstorm district to the Holden School.

Presently Keith lives in Edmonton, Shirley in Red Deer and Marie in Vancouver, B.C.; all in the real estate industry. Milton, Grant and Stuart are all farming in the south Holden area.

Betty passed away in 1973 and Donald still lives on the home farm and milks a few cows.

MacGregor, Stuart and Marjorie

Stuart is the youngest son of Donald and Betty MacGregor. He was raised on his parents' farm which was in the Sandstorm School district. The Sandstorm School was closed and buses took children to Holden before he was of school age. After grade twelve in Holden High, Stuart spent three years working and attending NAIT and one year at U. of A.



Nola, Marj, Stuart and Marty MacGregor.

In the spring of 1969 Donald purchased the Ogonoski farm adjoining his own. Stuart farmed this land with his father until his marriage to Marjorie Meadahl in 1971. Marjorie is the daughter of Leslie and Joyce Meadahl of the Gladstone district.

Stuart and Marjorie have a daughter Nola, and a son Marty. Both attend school in Holden and are interested in animals and sports. Marjorie is interested in sewing and teaches classes as well as helping with field work in the farming seasons.

Stuart hauls bulk milk for N.A.D.P. in Camrose. He serves as a board member for Ankerton Gas Co-op and also as a trustee for Holden Drainage District.

Mackay, Robert and Christine

Bob and Christine Mackay and children David, Linda and Betty moved to Holden in March of 1968, from Boyle, Alberta. Bob worked for Calgary Power Ltd. in Lacombe, Innisfail, Boyle and Holden from May 1962 until his death on January 25, 1976. Since that time Christine worked at the County of Beaver Seed Cleaning Plant, Thor Agencies Ltd. and since January 1, 1979, has been Administrator for the Village of Holden. Christine was a member of council from October 1977 until December 1978 when she resigned to become administrator. At present David and Linda still live in Holden and Betty lives in Bruce.

MacPherson, Rev. R. H. Family by Ronola Black

Rev. Ronald Hugh (R.H.), his wife Margaret Lane and their four children came to Ryley from Nova Scotia in 1914. In 1927 they moved to Holden where Mr. MacPherson served as minister of Holden United Church for the next five years. They lived in the manse next door to Mr. and Mrs. Stokes.

Alexander, who had previously worked in Hold-



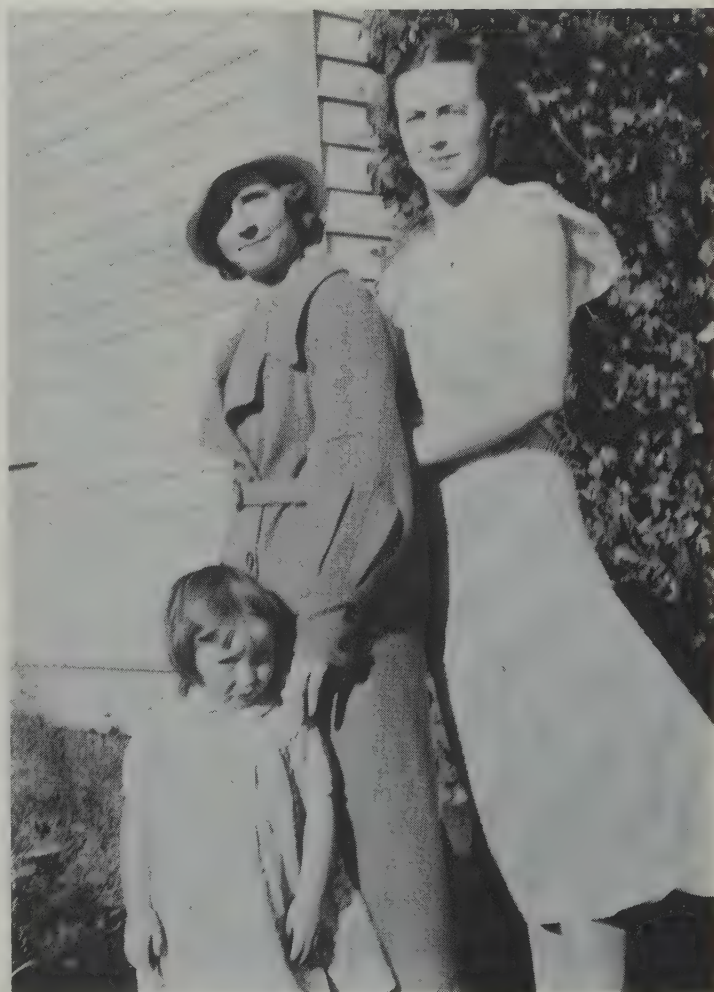
Rev. MacPherson and Calvin.



Rev. MacPherson, Calvin, Mrs. MacPherson, Ronola, Alexander, MacQueen.

en Royal Bank, went to the University of Alberta and became a doctor. He joined the army in World War II and was made a Colonel. He won the D.S.O. and was decorated by the King. A hospital being built in Calgary is to be named the Colonel MacPherson Hospital in his honor. Dedication is set for March 1982. There is also a hospital wing in Edmonton named after him. His wife Marguerite resides in Edmonton.

I, Ronola married George Black of the Holden Blacks, and after ten years in Vegreville we moved to Vancouver. We have a son, David Grant. He graduated from U.B.C. in engineering and has an M.B.A. in finance, also two years at University of California at Berkley. David and I live in Vancouver.



Greta MacPherson, Ronola Black and small friend.

Macqueen "Mack" who had worked for Don Allan at the hardware in Holden, married Ruby McNeil. Mack played hockey in Holden and the family stayed at Don Allan's "batch" for awhile. He was later in the R.C.A.F. with the Air Vice Marshall's crew. He worked at North West Industries until he retired. They live in Edmonton and have two children and five grandchildren.

Calvin "Cally" married Helen Snaddon (sister of the former editor of the Edmonton Journal). They have three children and five grandchildren. Cally worked at the Royal Bank in Holden when Mr. Fleming was manager, and later in a Calgary bank. He was a Flying Officer with the R.C.A.F. He, too, played hockey in Holden and with Medicine Hat for the Memorial Cup championships. He worked with Black Motors and a Vancouver Finance Co. He is now retired in Vancouver.

I taught eight years in Holden (downstairs in the fire hall three years) and often wonder how so many beautiful children could be together in one place at the same time. Some of the hours were spent getting ready for the festival and we won many prizes there. Paul Thomas started a file on each pupil in the school and Miss Briggs and I kept them up each year — when they entered the school — their ages — the year — also each year as they moved up was added to their files. These records would be over forty years old and wouldn't they make interesting reading!



David Black, Mrs. MacPherson, Hugh MacPherson.

Madsen, Ernest and Jane

Ernest and Jane Madsen, parents of Eleanor Good, moved to Holden from Lamont in 1953. They bought the Louie Ritland house. Jane Madsen taught school and led the Junior Choir. Both she and Ernie were active in the United Church and sang in the choir. Ernie sold machinery and cars for Dave Bell. In 1958 they moved, along with Jane's mother, Mrs. Pendleton, to Los Angeles, where Iris, Eleanor and their son Lewis live. Mrs. Madsen died of cancer in 1979. Ernie, a very young 87, still active in business and church, has now married again.

Makarowski, John and Rose

by Stan Makarowski

John, eldest son of Michael and Anna Makarowski, was born in Hotynetz, Austria in 1898. In 1907, at the age of 9 years, he migrated to Canada with his parents and brothers. They took up farming in the district of Quarrel, Alberta. Dad remained with his parents on the farm until he married Rose Chipczak of Chipman, Alberta in 1921. They acquired a quarter section of land immediately north and adjoining grandfather's homestead. Reward School was situated two and one-half miles northeast of our place.



John and Rose Makarowski, Mike and Stanley

The family began to grow. Mike was born in 1925, Stanley in 1929, Nick in 1931, Julia in 1934, Ray in 1938, Pauline in 1940, Victoria in 1942 and Josie in 1944.

We lived in the Ukrainian Catholic Church district of Kopernick which was located six miles northeast of our place. Dad was active and concerned

about our church affairs. As a youngster I recall that occasionally Dad took his turn to drive to Holden on Sunday mornings to meet the train to pick up the priest who came from Edmonton to serve Mass in church on a monthly basis. That day was always inconvenient to us as we had to ride to church with our grandfather in his car, and it was very crowded in a 1927 Chevrolet.

Dad was a member of the Reward school board for many years. Many times during the storms of winter, he would warm up his 1929 Model A Ford and brave drifted roads just to put up election notices, etc., on corner fence posts surrounding the school. I attended Reward School for eight years. The teachers' names were: Miss Evelyn Woods, Mr. Roman Bayduza and Miss Ann Stuber. Needless to say, getting to school in those days, particularly in the winter, was most arduous, as we had to walk, except in the stormiest days of winter when Dad would hook up a team of horses to an open sleigh and drive us to and from school. However, it seems the hardships were forgotten when, just before Christmas, we put on a concert and eagerly waited for Santa Claus to arrive, after which we would go home and be happy for the rest of the winter season.

Dad took sick and passed away in 1944. As was the custom in those days, the body was brought to the home and the people came for the prayer services. I recall the procession from the farm to the church was a large one.

After that, farming became a very difficult task for us, as Mike and I, who were the oldest, were not totally interested in farming. Therefore, the farm did not receive the attention that was necessary. My mother realized this and decided to sell the land and move to Holden where she bought a house at the west end of town on the old highway. She lived there until 1951 when she sold it and moved to Edmonton.

Late in 1952, my brother Nick contacted polio. He was hospitalized and was placed in an iron lung immediately. During that time he was coherent, even though he could not move any part of his body except his head, he could hear, see, laugh, talk and really enjoyed having anyone come and visit him. However, after being in the iron lung for about three or four weeks, he went totally blind and remained that way for about three weeks when all of a sudden his vision was restored through no medical means. It was after his sight came back that he was the most jovial, as he then realized the value of life and what it meant to have all your senses. Many times he thanked God for giving him his eyesight back. He remained in the iron lung until he passed away in 1969.

Mike stayed in the Daysland area until 1947 when

he joined a C.N.R. extra gang at Prince Rupert, B.C. A year later he returned to Edmonton where he still resides. I, Stan, joined the Bridge and Building department of the C.N.R. in 1948, where I am still employed, working at various points in Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan. I married Anne Polutranko of Borschiw in 1952. We now reside in Edmonton. Julia married Julian Letawsky in 1957. They have two children and are now living in Sherwood Park. Ray is employed by Multigraph Addressograph. He married Doreen Olson of Berwyn, Alberta in 1957. They have four children and are now residing in Calgary. Pauline married Ron Filipchuk in Los Angeles in 1963. They lived there for a number of years and then moved back to Edmonton. They have two children and are now living at St. Albert. Victoria married Barrie Burden in Vancouver in 1963. They have three children and are now living in Sherwood Park. In 1966 Josie married Guy Refshauge, and later married Gary Davison in 1980. She has two children. They reside at Alberta Beach.

My mother is living in Edmonton and is enjoying good health.

Malick, Milton and Marie

Milton Malick was born in 1933 at Daysland and was raised on a farm located halfway between Holden and Daysland. He attended Reward and Daysland schools. In 1955 he married Marie Bailey of Bowden, Alberta. Marie received her education at Bowden and Red Deer.



Milton and Marie Malick, 1955.

In 1955 Milton started work with Revelstoke Company in Daysland. He later was transferred to Viking, Strome, Vegreville and in 1960 to Holden where he is presently the manager.

Milton is very active in hockey, baseball and curling. He played hockey with Daysland, Viking and presently with Holden Oldtimers. Baseball involved Bateman, Viking and still plays with Holden Bluejays. Milton has served with the Holden town council for six years, the Agricultural Society and is involved in many other community activities. Marie was a Brownie leader for 10 years. She curls and has been on the Agricultural Society board. She is employed at the Royal Bank in Holden.

Milton and Marie have raised a family of four daughters and one son. They all graduated from Holden School. Cheryl, born in 1956 graduated from Mount Royal College in Calgary. She married Doug Campbell and lives in Calgary with their son and daughter. Debbie, born in 1957 is married to Dennis Komarnisky of Holden. They live in Edmonton with their daughter. Lori, born in 1959 lives in Edmonton with her daughter where she works for an insurance company. Tina, born in 1961, married Marcel Zowtuk of Holden. They live in Holden with their two sons. Darrell born in 1962, is presently apprenticing as a plumber.



Malick children: Debbie, Tina, Darrell, Lori, Cheryl.

Malowany, Timko and Family by Nick Laskoski

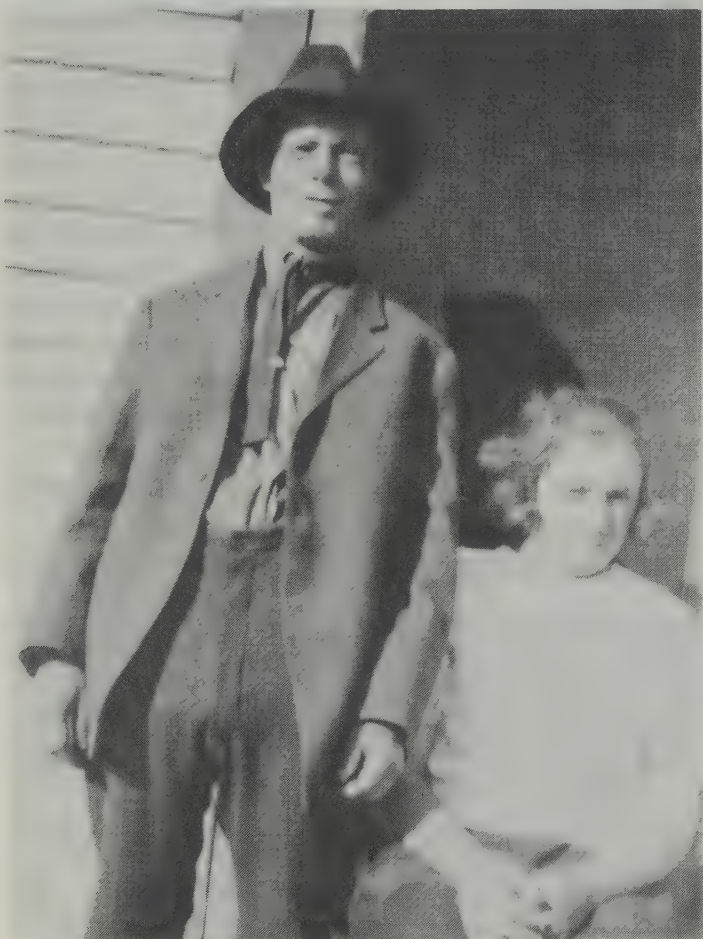
Born in Western Ukraine, Timko arrived in Strathcona in 1903. He was taken in by friends in the Mundare district. From there he went seeking for a homestead, and filed a claim on S.E. 4-48-16. After he built a place for them to live in, he went to work in Edmonton digging water and sewer lines. When he earned some money to buy a team of oxen and a few other things, he started farming on his own. His



Mr. and Mrs. Lestas, Peter Malowany, Annie, unknown, Mrs. Tekla Malowany, Timko Malowany, Mary and husband Mike Cwihula and their two children, John Malowany, unknown.

oldest daughter, Nancy (age 12) went with him to Edmonton and worked in the hotel to help support the family. His wife Tekla passed away in 1926 at the age of 57 years. Timko died in 1931 at the age of 68.

They raised seven children; Nancy, who married Steve Laskoski and farmed near by, Steve married Katherine Jiwanga and they farmed, Marie married Mike Cwihula and they farmed, Peter married Slawka Shynarski and they also farmed. Nick passed away at the age of 15 years, John remained single, and Annie married John Bednarz and they farmed in the Strome district.



Steve Malowany and niece Mary Laskoski.

Manchur, Michael and Anna by Anne Manchur

Anna Kozdrowski married Michael Manchur in 1932. Michael came from Poland to Canada at the age of sixteen, making his home first in Mundare. At the time of his marriage he was a C.N.R. section man at Poe. We built a new home in Holden, three houses east of the present Greek Catholic Church. There we raised three children, Donald, Marilyn and Darlene.

Michael was promoted to section foreman in 1944. In 1962 he took charge of two Canadian National Railways steel laying gangs and travelled through many areas of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. While in Holden, we with our chil-



Mike and Anna Manchur.

dren were actively involved in the Roman Catholic Church activities, Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides as well as hockey for example.

In 1964 Mike was promoted to Senior District Foreman in East Edmonton. This necessitated our moving to Edmonton, where there were more educational and recreational opportunities for our children. Michael took an early retirement in 1968, after serving forty two and a half years with the Canadian National Railways.

We are still active in the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Edmonton. We enjoy fishing, gardening, grafting fruit trees and our summer trips to our farms at Holden and Wetaskiwin. We are members of the Retired Railway Veterans' organization, and the Southeast Edmonton Seniors' club. I am very active in choir groups and enjoy travelling. Leisure time is spent cheering on the Edmonton Oilers. I enjoy various hobbies, particularly needle and petit point.

Donald, our oldest child completed high school in Holden in 1957. He joined the Canadian National Railways as an operator-agent, and married Beverly Gares of Viking in 1963. They resided in Viking until 1964 when Don joined the Alberta Liquor Control Board in Holden. In 1968 they moved to Wainwright where Don worked for Calgary Power Limited. In 1974 they moved to Wetskiwin and in 1975 after several promotions he was transferred to Edmonton. He is now Right of Way Assistant in transmission construction.



Marilyn, Darlene and Donald Manchur.

Don has been very active in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Movement, having joined as an officer in 1964 with R.C.S.C.C. Nootka in Holden. He was a commanding officer in Wainwright, Wetaskiwin and Sherwood Park. In 1981 he became a member of the primary reserve and is presently Assistant Administrative Officer with H.M.C.S. Nonsuch in Edmonton.

Having attained his pilot's license, Don enjoys flying in his spare time. Don presently resides in Sherwood Park, and he and Bev have one son, Grant who is employed with the C.N.R. in Edmonton. They have a daughter Stacy who is going to school in Sherwood Park.

Marilyn, our second child was born in Edmonton, grew up in Holden and completed high school at Thresetta Separate School in Castor, Alberta. While there she played on the basketball team that won the provincial championship for three consecutive years. Her excellence in sports led her to major in Physical Education at U. of A. where she graduated with her B. of Ed. degree in 1968. While living in Holden, Marilyn played the organ in church on Sundays.

She married Dennis West, of Wetaskiwin in 1969 and they have two children, Kristi Lee and Tommy. They live on a ranch east of Wetaskiwin. Dennis was recently involved with Hereford cattle and for several years exhibited their herd in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the U.S.A. Marilyn is teaching high school in Wetaskiwin and is coaching the basketball and volleyball high school teams. Darlene, our youngest, finished high school at Austin O'Brien in Edmonton. She took a year in the General Sciences Faculty, then enrolled at the University of Alberta Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated with honors as an R.N. in 1975. After working and travelling for a time Darlene returned to University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1982. She is now employed at the U. of A. hospital, specializing in



John Romanisson and Mike Manchur when they worked for the C.N.

emergency nursing. She has also become an excellent pianist and has performed at various music festivals.

Marko, John and Rose

John and Rose Marko were married in 1937. Rose was the daughter of a pioneer area couple, Walter and Mary Sturek of Daysland, Alberta. During their many years on the farm John and Rose worked hard and were active participants in all the church and community activities. John served as a trustee for Unity School for eight years. He was the manager of Polska Hall for ten years, and also worked as a gravel checker for the County of Beaver. John and Rose lived and farmed on the original homestead until their retirement to Camrose in 1974. John Marko



Jeannette, John and Rose Marko, and Florence.

passed away in 1979 and Rose still resides in Camrose. They have two daughters, Florence who is married to Russell Faryna and Jeannette who is married to John Panas. They also have six grandchildren, Darrell, Terry, Roxanne, Greg Faryna and Laurie and Marcel Panas.

Marko, Mike and Family

The Marko family settled in the Holden district around the turn of the century, Wasył and Katie, had a family of ten children, seven girls and three boys, of which Mike was the eldest.

Mike, along with his sisters and brothers helped his parents on the farm, providing for the family during difficult times. He attended Scona School, but because he was needed on the farm, his education was limited.

In 1932, at the age of twenty five, Mike married



Mike Marko family: Nellie, Peter, Annie, Mike, Ethel, Rose. Front Row: Bernie and Diane.

Ann Chomik, and purchased his own farm S-1/2-1-48-16. To this union seven children were born; Rose, Angella (Nellie), Ethel, Peter, Bernard and Dianne. One child died in infancy. The older girls and Peter attended Polska and Scona Schools. Bernard attended Polska and then the Holden School when the students were bused in from the country. Dianne the youngest received all her education in Holden.

In 1954, Rose moved to Camrose where she worked until she married Roy Slipchuk in 1956. They reside in Edmonton with their three boys.

Nellie moved to Viking in 1956 and in 1958 married Fred Johnston. They farm near Viking and have two girls and two boys.

Ethel worked at the Bank of Montreal in Viking and in 1960 married a widower, Emil Mazankowski. They bought a farm south of Viking where they still



Mike Marko farmstead.

reside, Ethel has two step-daughters and one step-son as well as two daughters.

Peter stayed on the farm until his father passed away. Then he left and worked abroad for awhile. He is married and now works with the Department of Highways.

Bernard joined the army in 1957 and took his training in Eastern Canada attaining the rank of corporal. Now retired from the army, he resides in Saudi, Arabia.

Dianne, the baby of the family, married Alvin Koetke. They have two boys and a girl. They farmed south of Holden until 1971 when they moved to Camrose, where Alvin is employed by A.G.T.

Mike enjoyed his farm and his neighbours. During harvest he could be found with a local threshing crew. He was truly a man of the land. In 1964, at the age of 58, Mike passed away and is buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery, south of Holden.

Marko, Nick Sr.

Nick Marko came to Canada in 1910 from the Ukraine to his sister's homestead, Mrs. Ann Krysa in Kopernick. Nick worked on the railroad being built from Daysland to Loughheed.

Nancy Krupa came to Canada in 1904 from the Ukraine with her parents Nick and Annie Krupa, and her two brothers and three sisters. They settled on a homestead in Kopernick (NE 20-47-15). Nick Krupa was employed in Strathcona, digging ditches during the summer months. He passed away in 1909, and Annie in 1954. Both are buried at Kopernick Cemetery.

Nancy Krupa married Alex Scabar of Round Hill in 1912. They had one son John who now resides in Calgary. Alex passed away suddenly in 1912 and Nancy returned to live with her family in Kopernick.

In 1913, Nancy married Nick Marko. Nick took over the Krupa homestead. Between the years of 1925-1938, he ran the local post office at his home.



Nick and Nancy Marko 1947.

Nick and Nancy Marko had twelve children. Mike who is a veteran of W.W. II, resides on Vancouver Island. Mary and Julia are in Daysland, Kay and Olga in Calgary. Rose and Stan reside in Viking, Helen at Sylvan Lake, Elsie at Edmonton and Doris at Tofield. Edward who passed away in 1946, and Nick who took over the family farm and still resides there.

Nick Marko Sr. passed away in 1963 and is buried at Kopernick Cemetery. Nancy resides at the Rosehaven Nursing Home in Camrose.

Nick Marko Jr. married Helen Kudrowich of Ryley in 1959. They have four children. Teresa is working at A.G.T. in Vegreville. David is presently working at County of Beaver Seed Cleaning Plant. Wayne and Charleen are attending Holden School.

Marko, Peter and Rose

Peter Marko was born in Poland in 1863. He emigrated to Canada in 1895 and helped work on the Pacific Coast Leg of the Canadian Pacific Transcontinental Railroad. In 1902 he married Rose Miciak in Strathcona Alberta. From Strathcona the newlyweds began farming on a homestead in the Koperville (Kopernick) district 15 miles southeast of Holden. It was situated right next to the Ascension Greek Catholic Church.

Peter and Rose were blessed with eight children; Mike, Anne, John, Josie, Joseph, Pete, Lewis and Mary. Eleven grandchildren were also raised.

They worked hard and long as a family, and acquired several more quarters of land in the district. They helped in building of churches and schools for their children.



Peter Marko family. Back Row: Annie, Rose, Peter, John. Front Row: Pete, Joe, Josie, Lewis. Mike is missing.

Peter Marko passed away in 1951 at the age of 88 years. He was predeceased by his wife Rose in 1932, son Pete in 1949, and an infant daughter Mary.

Mike Marko, the eldest son was married to Mary Kalowski. Mike farmed in the district for several years before moving to Rosedale, B.C., to work in the forest industry. Mike passed away in 1973 in Chilliwack B.C. They had two daughters; Irene (Mrs. Horst Siebert) Eugene, Oregon and Margaret (Mrs. R. Squair) Seattle, Washington.

Anne Marko married Stan Borowski and they lived in Mundare, Alberta where they carried on with farm life. Anne passed away in 1978. They have two children Ernest and Rose Wiechel of Edmonton.

John Marko was born in 1909 on the original homestead in Kopernick. He married Rose Sturek in 1937. (See their story.)

Josie Marko worked on the farm for several years after the death of her mother, helping the family. Leaving Kopernick she went to work as a cook in the Daysland hospital and in hotels in Bawlf and Camrose. At the outbreak of World War II she enlisted in the C.W.A.C. as a cook instructor. After her discharge from the services in 1945 she worked as head cook for the Edmonton City Club. After being away from the Kopernick district for so many years, she purchased a quarter of land next to the homestead where she was born. In 1950 she married William Bonk. They have one daughter Sonia (Mrs. Marcel Jean). They have resided in Edmonton since 1950.

Joseph Marko was married to Mary Sturek. Joe farmed in the area for several years before moving to Calmar, Alta., to work in the oilpatch. Following that he worked in the Post Office in Edmonton as a clerk supervisor until retirement due to health problems. He now resides in Edmonton. They had one daughter and two sons, Margaret Sucholotosky of Prince George B.C. Larry of Edmonton, and Donald of Ardrossan Alta.

Lewis Marko married Alice Dayday. Lewis left the farm as a young man to work in the gold mines. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and went overseas for three years. After discharge from R.C.A.F. with the rank of Flight Lieutenant he returned to the district of Kopernick to take up farming. Selling the land, he then moved to Edmonton and worked as a meat inspector. They now reside in Yhak B.C. where they own and operate Bob's Motel. They have one son Robert of Edmonton, Alberta.

Marko, Wasyl and Katie

Wasyl and Katie Marko came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1900 with Katie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dubranski. They settled in the Inland area.

Later Wasyl and Katie found a homestead south of Holden where they resided until their deaths. They had eleven children, eight daughters and three sons. They were, Mary, Pearl, Stella, Nora, Annie and Harry who are living. Katie, Helen, Nellie, Mike and Fred are deceased.

In 1912 Wasyl sent for his brother Nick, who stayed with them for six months, then later settled in the Waskatenau-Radway area.



Wasyl and Katie Marko.

Markuson, Olaf and Family

by Nima Shand

In 1920 Olaf Markuson and family moved to Holden from Carrot Creek, Alberta, to engage in farming. His family consisted of his wife Anna and four daughters, Armada, Nima and Olga; the eldest, Bea, was married and remained at Carrot Creek. The family on arrival, lived on the Hayes place half a mile from Longridge School. Within two years they moved to the Tom Thoreson place, across from Radio School. The last eight years they lived on the Lars Peterson place, four and one half miles northeast of Holden.

In 1933 Mrs. Markuson passed away and the family moved back to the Edson district. In 1962, Mr. Markuson passed away in Vancouver, B.C. where he had lived with his daughter in the later years.

His eldest daughter had one girl, Grace. Bea passed away in 1970. Armada now lives in Richmond, B.C. Nima residing in Victoria, has one daughter Barbara. Olga, the youngest passed away in 1977, leaving her husband and four children, three girls and one boy.

Life on the farm was not all play; there were plenty of chores for all of us. We used to ship cream, so that meant cows to milk. The milk had to be put through the old hand cranked De Laval separator. The work of cleaning up pails, separator, and putting the cream away, all took time; with no boys in our family these were chores for the girls. When Saturday came, we took the cream to town and often a crate of eggs to the general store.

However we found time in the summer to go to a lake and meet all our friends and neighbors with everyone putting their goodies together in a good old fashioned picnic. Needless to say, no time was more eventful than the school picnic in June; plus the unforgettable school concerts with tree, Santa and gifts.

Marriage, Herbert

by Marian Atkin

Herbert John Marriage was born in Chelmsford, England in 1879 and was educated there. He moved to Kansas, U.S.A. as a young man to help a cousin run his ranch. However, things didn't work out, so he came to Alberta around 1903. He filed for a homestead about nine miles southwest of Holden. He farmed there on his own until 1917 when he advertised for a housekeeper. Mrs. Florence Rottray who had lost her husband in World War I, in 1916 answered the ad and came from Edmonton to keep house. She was also born in England (Florence Elizabeth Frances) in 1892 coming to Edmonton at the age of fourteen with her father, brothers and sisters;



Herbert Marriage, 1918.

her mother had passed away the year before. Florence and Herb Marriage married in 1918 with Alec Barlow and her sister May Frances as witnesses. May Frances lost her first husband (Donaldson) and later married William Good, a brother to Jack Good who farmed in the Holden district.

Mr. and Mrs. Marriage moved to Ontario soon after they were married. In 1920, after Victor was born, they returned to their farm in Alberta as the buyers were unable to pay for it. Marian was born in 1923.



Florence Marriage 1918.

Herb Marriage was an ardent hunter, and we nearly always had wild duck, prairie chicken and partridge. In the fall, he also shot lots of coyotes. He raised sheep and the coyotes were quite a menace. He did his own shearing of the sheep and butchered his own meat. Mrs. Marriage carded the wool and made quilts with the wool that wasn't sold. She also canned chicken and meat as well as fruit and vegetables. Preserving things was no easy task those years. Mrs. Marriage had been employed as a seamstress at G.W.G. in Edmonton so was able to make nearly all the family clothes. She turned her hand to most tasks, wallpapering and building some of the furniture were among them.

Mr. Marriage was active in the community. He was secretary-treasurer of Talbot School for a number of years where both Victor and Marian attended school.

Herb Marriage was a great tease and was often up to tricks. He and Lars Ritland were always playing tricks on each other especially if one of them were out when the other visited his home. Herb loved reading and playing cards, especially bridge. He died in 1940 at the age of 61.

Mrs. Marriage had a farm sale in 1941, and she and Marian moved to Victoria, B.C. Victor joined the R.C.A.F. and was posted different places in Canada. Marian worked at many different jobs before marrying Ivor Jacobson, an electrician, in 1947. She was an electrician's helper in the ship yards at Yarrow, she also worked in an auto body shop, plastic



Marion with daughters Lesley and Janice Jacobson.

shop, a bakery, dry cleaners and at a photographers. Marian and Ivor Jacobson had two daughters, Lesley born in 1957 and Janice born in 1961. They lived in Port Alberni, Nanaimo, B.C. and Duncan, but mostly Victoria during their twenty five years of married life.

In 1978 Marian married Mike Atkin, a customs officer who retired in 1980. Lesley works at the Royal Jubilee hospital and has one daughter. Janice is hair-dressing in Victoria.

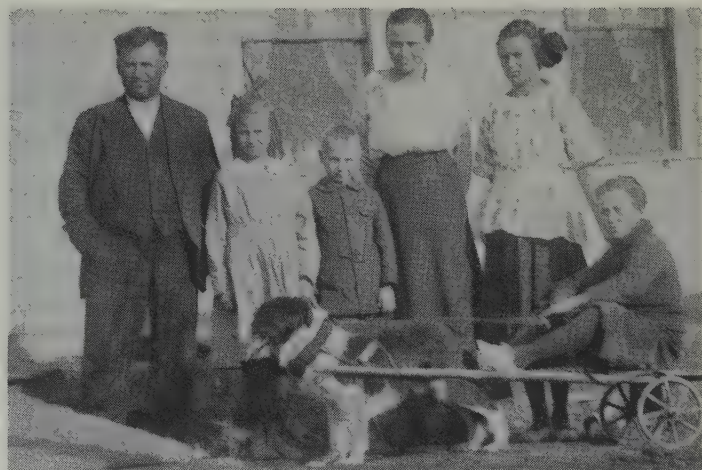
In 1944 Victor Marriage married Mary Butcher of Abbotsford, B.C. They lived in Vancouver and Abbotsford before moving to Red Deer, Alberta, where they lived from 1946 until 1981. Victor worked as a carpenter for the R.C.A.F. at Penhold, Alberta. He retired in 1981, and after a tour of New Zealand they are presently living in Westbank, B.C. They have two sons, John, an iron worker in Calgary and David, presently of New York where he is in Drama.



Victor and Marion Marriage, 1927.

Maruszczyka, George and Family by Leo Maruszczyka

George Maruszczyka was born in 1877 in Korenycia in the province of Galicia, Austria (now Poland). He migrated to New York, U.S.A. in 1898 at the age of 21 years, to escape crowded conditions, political uncertainty, and poverty. The following year he left Portland, Oregon with a partner to try his luck in the gold fields of the Yukon and Alaska. He received his American Citizenship in 1901 at St. Michael in the Territory of Alaska. In 1902 George decided to go south to Vancouver to sell his furs and get new supplies for trading with the Indians of Alaska. He sold his furs and purchased a new supply of cartridges for his .45 Colt revolver, then changed



George Maruszczyka family 1920. George, Josie, Leo, Julia, Mary, Fred on the cart.

his mind and went to Alberta to visit his brother at Round Hill.

During the winter of 1902 he worked in the coal mines at Canmore in the foothills. Returning to Round Hill in the spring, he met Julia Pointkowska of the Round Hill-Lake Demay district. They were married in 1903 and settled on a homestead on Vermilion Creek, near the Post Office of Pretty Hill. The land description was N.W. ¼ 4-49-15 (now owned by Steve Stokowski) three miles east of Holden on Highway 14.

Julia Pointkowska was born at Loup City, Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1886. She came to Canada with her father Walenby Pointkowska and a step mother, two brothers, Anton and Stanley and a sister Barbara. Arriving at Strathcona in 1899, they rented land just south of Strathcona (now Edmonton) for a year or so, before taking homesteads in the Round Hill-Lake Demay district. George and Julia lived in a tent for the first year. It was lonely on Vermilion Creek with the nearest towns of Wetaskiwin and Lloydminster, a two week journey with oxen to either place.

In addition to breaking his own land with oxen, George was busy breaking land for his neighbors as well, including some 60 acres for the Applebys. In winter he freighted farm produce for himself and the neighbors (to Wetaskiwin and Lloydminster) returning with lumber and other supplies for the district. For this he used two oxen and one horse on each unit. Fred Tkaczyk, a boy of 14 years, drove one of the teams on these trips, getting 50 cents a day.

A story told about one of these trips to Lloydminster had it that George had sold all the eggs and live hens that he had with him to the Barr Colonists as hatching eggs and setting hens. One of the Colonists was too late to get a hen for setting, so the ingenious George proceeded to show him how he could make the one lone rooster he had left, set on the eggs. Taking a box, he made holes in it, passed the rooster's



George and Julia Maruszczyk's homestead — 1904.

legs through the holes and tied them together with string. "Place straw under the rooster and put the eggs under him," George announced, "and he will hatch the eggs." The Colonist was impressed, bought the rooster and went happily home. The results of the hatching are not known.

When the survey was made for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, it cut across the homestead. George sold the homestead and built a butcher shop on the main street in the new Holden townsite. He also operated a livery stable at the same time, which was located a block west of the main street. Julia looked after the butcher shop. When the partnership of Myer Black and Barney Gilbert, General Merchants, wished to open a business, George built a store next to his butcher shop to accommodate them.

In 1911 Edmonton was experiencing a real estate boom and George saw an opportunity to better himself. He sold the butcher shop and livery stable in Holden to obtain money for ventures in real estate and moved to Edmonton.

While in Edmonton, besides dealing in real estate, he worked on the Low Level Bridge where he unceremoniously left the bridge with a wheelbarrow of concrete. He was recovered from the water none the worse for the experience.

The land boom in Edmonton came to an end late in 1912 as land values dropped. Nearly broke, George took his family back to Holden in 1913 to make a new start. He traded the store building occupied by M. Black to Fred Christiansen for a quarter of land on the west edge of Holden (N.E. ¼ 15-49-16 now owned by the Steve Zawalek family). He built a house, purchased a buckboard and a team of cayuses and drove the country buying livestock. In the following years he shipped many train loads of cattle to destinations ranging from Hay Lakes in the west to the Saskatchewan border. Some special trains were billed as far away as Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1919 he started a lumber yard at the farm, then moved the building site and lumber yard to a new location on the east side where he built a new brick house in 1922. Along with the lumber yard and livestock business, he operated a butcher shop in the basement of the new house, built a slaughter house and shipped fresh and cured meats to other towns as well as providing local sales and custom slaughtering. For a short time in 1920 George bought grain for the Merchants Grain Co. of Winnipeg, weighing the loads over his livestock scales and loading with a portable elevator into the boxcars.

In 1927, George bought a section of school land south of Bruce (Sec. 11-48-15). He fenced the land and in 1929 bought a small caterpillar tractor. His son Leo began breaking the land and it was farmed from Holden until 1935.

Late in 1932 George's health began to deteriorate and he passed away in 1934 at the age of 57 years. He was buried in the Holden Cemetery.

His wife Julia and son Leo carried on for a short time then disposed of the businesses and land at Holden. In the spring of 1935 they built a house on the farm south of Bruce, moved in and continued farming.

Julia retired after Leo was married and alternated living with her daughters at Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Leo at Bruce, and later lived in the hamlet of Bruce where she passed away in 1966 at the age of 80 years. She was buried at Holden Cemetery.

Five children were born to George and Julia Maruszczyk.

Mary, married Joseph White (see their story).

Fred, born on the homestead in 1907, attended school at Holden until passing away in 1923 at 16 years of age. He was buried at Round Hill, Alberta.

Agnes was born above the butcher shop in Holden in 1909. A clipping from the 'Holden Herald' dated the last week of January, 1909, reads: "There is rejoicing in the home of Geo. Maruszczyk over the arrival on Saturday last of another daughter. This is one of the first births in Holden town and no doubt the smiling George will name the little lady Holdena." Agnes passed away in 1910 at the age of 1½ years. She was buried at Round Hill.

Josephine was born in 1911, above the butcher shop in Holden. She graduated from the Holden High School and was married in 1930 to Theadore Joseph Jacobs of Edmonton. He operated a welding school in Edmonton and they are now retired and living in Edmonton. They had two children, Theadore and Marguerite.

Leo, born in 1913 married Francis Pinkoski. See Leo Maruszczyk story.

Maruszczyka, Leo and Family

by Leo Maruszczyka

I was born in 1913 in Edmonton to George and Julia Maruszczyka and moved with my parents at the age of six months, to the outskirts of Holden. I attended Holden School and left to work in my father's businesses, the lumber yard and butcher shop. I also drove a truck hauling livestock, etc. and farmed southwest of Bruce. Sometime after my father passed away, my mother and I moved to the farm where we built a house and took up farming full time.



Leo Maruszczyka family. Standing: David, Allan, John, Michael. Seated: Frances, Leo and Georgina (1975).

In 1937 we purchased a second hand threshing machine and in the following years threshed for neighbors, and did our own as well. In 1939 we set up a hammer mill to chop grain for ourselves, but were coaxed to do custom chopping for the neighborhood one day a week until we acquired electric power in the district in 1953. In 1938 I rigged up an old Delco lighting plant with batteries and a wind charger for 32 volt power which accommodated us until 1953. A McCormick rubber tired diesel tractor was purchased in 1941, which was a godsend to farming over horses and steel wheeled tractors. We obtained diesel fuel from Wainwright at 8½ cents a gallon which cut costs dramatically.

After the war broke out in 1939 and conscription came in, I took my medical, but because I was a farmer the authorities decided I would be more valuable on the home front producing food than in the army.

In the spring of 1942 I was married to Frances Pinkoski of the Calmar district. Frances was born in 1917 at a homestead on Strawberry Creek near Genevieve to Louis and Anna Pinkoski. After several years of struggle on poor land her parents purchased land near Conjuring Lake (now Wizard Lake) where she helped her parents on the farm until she married.

During W.W.II it was impossible to get help, consequently in 1943 most of our stooked crops were snowed under for the winter. In '44 we bought a used self-propelled Massey-Harris combine and changed our method of farming. We did a good deal of custom combining in the following years at rates from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre.

Over the years we built up a herd of Polled Hereford cattle and sold a number of purebred bulls in the district. We disposed of the cattle in 1965-66 because of my poor health and continued with grain farming until retiring.

During the hard times of the 1930's and even before that we lived mostly off the land. Most of the food was grown and processed on the farm while flour was milled at Strome or Mundare. Strawberry leaves were picked and dried and used in brewing tea, and wild berries were picked for preserving. Large gardens were the order of the day. As freezers were not yet developed, everything had to be canned or dried.

We purchased a McCormick pick-up baler in 1948 to speed up the haying operation and to reduce manpower. Parts for the farm machinery as well as farm labor were scarce after the war. During and after W.W. II, I used an electric welder made by my brother-in-law, T. J. Jacobs, from an old 24 volt Cadillac generator and powered by a 1918 Chevrolet 490 engine. This was used until we bought a new D.C. electric welder in 1948. That same year a used 10 inch metal turning lathe was acquired. These machines along with the blacksmith outfit we already had enabled us to repair our equipment and make parts that we could not otherwise get. Also some labor saving items of our own design were built to use in farming, such as a buck rake for stacking loose hay, a portable grain loader, a tumble bug for moving dirt and so on.

Changes to more modern methods and machinery came fast from then on. In 1948 we bought a bigger and better combine and tractor, in 1950 a Pioneer Hitterdal self-propelled swather made in Winnipeg, a Jeffroy chisel plow manufactured in Texas, a 21 foot disk for seeding in 1953, also a rotary snowplow with which for a few years, I opened a number of country roads to keep the school bus running in the winter.

I was active in many organizations: the Bruce Local of the Farmers' Union of Canada (Alberta Section), the Bruce Stampede Association, the curling club, in church affairs at Bruce until its closure, then at Holden. I was an active member of the Knights of Columbus (Holden Sub-Council). I served on the Agricultural Service Board for the County of Beaver and on the Agricultural Advisory Committee. After moving to Tofield I was appointed

an inspector of the Reclamation Council of Alberta for the County of Beaver, a position I hold to date. I served as one of the organizers of the Bruce Rural Electrification Association in 1953 and am still on the board of directors at this time.

During all these years my wife Frances did a wonderful job of managing the household, the garden and cooking for hired help, as well as raising and guiding our five children as they were growing up. After the family left home we continued to farm until we retired in 1978, held an auction sale and left the farm in 1979. Frances and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary in 1982, while on a holiday in San Francisco.

Our family began arriving in 1943, when David was born. He attended Fairview School for the first year, and was then bussed to school in Bruce. He graduated from Bruce High School in 1961, and attended the University of Alberta where he studied Electronics Engineering. He was employed by Bell Telephone Company for a time in Ontario. He instructed in Electronics at N.A.I.T. for several years and is now an engineer with Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton. He is married, has two children and lives in Beaumont, Alberta.

Michael came along in 1944, and also attended Fairview, Bruce and Holden Schools. He graduated in 1961, then enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. After graduating he taught high school in Edmonton, the Red Deer area and in St. Albert. He is single and maintains a residence in Innisfail, Alberta.

Georgina made her appearance in 1952, and attended Bruce Elementary and Holden High Schools. Upon graduation in 1969, she enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. After teaching school for a time, she studied Interior Design at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She held several positions in Edmonton and is now Supervisor of a drafting room for Alberta Power in Edmonton. She is married and lives in Edmonton.

Allan entered the world in 1956, attended both Bruce and Holden High, then left school in 1974. He worked in the construction and printing industries and as a hardware sales representative. He is now sales manager for Murray's Industrial Supplies, is single and lives in Edmonton.

John, the last of our children, arrived in 1958. He received his schooling at Bruce and Holden High, graduating in 1976. John has held order desk positions with electrical suppliers and wholesalers and is now working for Nedco Ltd. Electrical Wholesalers. He has been continuing his education at N.A.I.T., is single and lives in Edmonton.

All five children helped at the farm while going to

school whenever they could, as bussing to and from school took considerable time. At school all of them took an active role in sports, class activities, organizing of graduation exercises, yearbooks, Student Unions, and so on.

While in high school at Bruce, David and Michael along with a couple of other boys in their class built electric guitars and spent much of their time supplying music for dances and parties.

I can't end this story without mentioning our hired hand Stanley Brniak, who worked faithfully for us most of our farming years. He was a handyman, an exceptional jack-of-all-trades and was a great help to us through the years.

Stanley was born in 1902 in Poland. He immigrated to Canada because of hard economic times and overcrowding, arriving in Quebec in 1926 on the



Stanley Brniak, 1975.

Ocean Ship Montcalm at the age of 26 years. He arrived at Holden shortly after at the home of George Maruszczyk, who was replacing farm work laborers for the Canada Immigration Department. He was placed with Wilber Daily, north of Holden for the balance of the season. When the harvest was finished, Stanley, along with two fellow immigrants placed in the Holden district, rode the freight trains to Ontario to look for work. He returned to Holden in 1931 to work for George Maruszczyk in the butcher shop, and on the farm until 1934, after which time he worked for Mrs. George Maruszczyk and myself until retiring, a time span of 36 years. He continued to live with us until his death in 1977 at the age of 75 years. He was an ardent curler and was active in the Bruce Stampede Association and the Knights of Columbus (Holden Sub-Council). He received his Canadian Naturalization papers in 1937.

Mason, Ralph and Ida

Ralph Mason was born at Watrous, Saskatchewan to William and Constance Mason in 1918. He married Ida Walen from Plato, Saskatchewan, 1939. He moved to Holden, Alberta in 1956 as agent for the Searle Grain Company. In 1973, they moved to Edmonton. He works for Murray Hill Developments as manager of Jamestown Village in Millwoods. While living in Holden, he owned and operated his own business, Mason Farm Equipment, was president of the Holden Chamber of Commerce, served on the town council, was president of Holden Lutheran Church, Past Master of Masonic Lodge and Exalted Ruler of Holden Elks. He still owns a small acreage south from main street of Holden where he bee farms.

They have four sons, George, Ralph, Robert and Donald who received most of their education at Holden School.

George was born in 1940 at Eston, Saskatchewan. He married JoAnne Renkema from Edson in 1964 and have two sons: Grant, and Todd. They live in Sherwood Park and George has his own business, Mason Research and Development at Sherwood Park and Whitehorse, Yukon.

Ralph was born in 1943 at Eston, Saskatchewan. He married Sharon Hardy from Holden in 1962. They have three sons and one daughter; Darren, Darcy, Derrick and Shannon. Ralph and Sharon live in Calgary where Ralph is a mechanic at Shaw G. M. Truck.

Robert was born in 1945 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He married Margaret Ann Grube from Holden in 1967. They have two sons, Scott and Benjamin. Bob and Margaret live in Edmonton and own their own business, B. Mason Contracting Ltd.

Donald was born at Battleford, Saskatchewan in 1948. He married Carole Meunier of Valleyview in 1976. They have one daughter and two sons: Michelle, Jay and Daniel. Don and Carole live at Beaverlodge, where Don is a salesman for Foster's Vanguard Sales.

Mathews, Charles and Katherine Family by Margaret Hrynew

Charles was born in England in 1853 and came to Canada with the N.W.M.P. before 1890. He ran a ferry from Strathcona to Edmonton, hauled coal, planted trees around the police barracks and trained horses for colonel Royer. On one trip with the N.W.M.P. to Stony Plain he met Katherine Gable. They were married in 1892 and homesteaded three miles south of Colchester School. In 1919 they bought the Tank place, NE 19-49-15-W4, where Pobrans now live.



Matthews family. Alex, Alice, Grandma Matthews, Grandpa Matthews, Elizabeth and Margaret with Victoria, Shirley and Grant Heffel.



Alex and Bessie in front of their home, 1938.

They farmed there for over 20 years. Charles and Katherine had twelve children; two girls passed away in infancy.

Edward — was born in 1892. He lived and worked in the Holden area for some years before taking a homestead in the McLennan area, where he farmed until his death in 1969.

George — was born in 1896. He worked for the farmers in the Holden and Colchester areas until going to St. Joseph's Hospital in 1949. He now resides at Rosehaven in Camrose.

Albert — born in 1897, farmed with his family until going to St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton in 1949 where he passed away in 1979.

John was born in 1898 and died in 1977 in Peace River where he had a trap line. After leaving Holden he took a homestead near Edward's at McLennan, Alberta.

Annie — was born in 1899. She married Neil

McLellan and later Alfred Legault. They had a sawmill in Vanderhoof, B.C. Alfred and Annie retired to Prince George, B.C. where Annie passed away in 1973. Annie and Neil had four children: Katherine — (1921-1957) married Neil Gilbert. They had two children Donna and Neil. Later Katherine married (Bud) Vernon Ball. They have one son Gary. Archie — and Margaret have five children: Neil, Terry, Brian, Heather and David. Alexander McLellan Bendick — and Irene have two sons Barrie and Stewart. June — married El Kelly — have five children, John, Lynda, Randy, Pat and Sean. They live at Westbank, B.C.

Walter born in 1903, lives in the nursing home in Rimbey. Walter married Augusta Fodness of Holden. They have three children, eleven grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. Alice — who married Herman Odenbach lives near Rimbey. They have two children, Ronald and Marlene. Walter — married Olive Calihoo. They had two children, Walter and Brenda. Walter the second died in 1947. Marjorie — married Joe Carriere and lives in Edmonton. They have seven children: Jo-Anne, Betty-Anne, Carmen, Dale, Joey, Kim and Diane.

Alexander — (1905-1956) married Elizabeth (Bessie) McIsaac who had come to stay with her

brothers Bill and George. Alex and Bessie were married in 1937 and lived one mile north of the Mathews farm (SW 30-49-15). Alex and Neal Crimmin bought a threshing machine together and went to work in the district. There was always work for a willing mechanic and Alex fitted the bill. Alex and Bessie have eight children: Margaret — married Steve Hrynew of St. Michael. They have five children: Wendy, Steven, Donald, Catherine and Tammy. Steve is an electrical engineer with A.G.T. and the family lives in Edmonton. Jean — married Harry Gering of Millet. They have one son Lloyd. Harry works for the C.P.R. and Jean for Whiteshell Eggs. Cecelia and Jack Sanderson farm and drive a school bus at Meadowview, Alberta. They have two girls, Susan and Kristine. Charles — married Dorothea Sand. They have three children Elise, Kirk and Kyla (see Charles Mathew Jr. Story). Sandria — married Gordon Sundlie of Ryley. They have three children: Shawna, David and Tanya. Gordon is an accountant with the City of Edmonton. They live near Sherwood Park. Richard — married Florence Petersen of Iron River. They have four children, Elizabeth, Todd, Jennifer and Tim. Dick drives a truck for B & R Transport out of Bonneyville. Bill — and his wife Elizabeth (nee Gluckie) of Limestone, have a back-



Alex and Bessie Matthews children and grandchildren. Standing: Robert, Bill, Richard, Charles Matthews, Wendy Hrynew, Lloyd, Jean, Harry Gering, Jack Sanderson, Steve Hrynew. Middle Row: Joni, Idella, Julie, Elsie, Charles, Todd, Florence, Tim and Jenny Matthews, David, Sandria and Tanya Sundlie, Kyla, Dorothea Matthews, Cec Sanderson, Steven, Tommy, Margaret and Cathy Hrynew. Front Row: Rebekah and Beth Matthews, Shauna Sundlie, Kirk and Elise Matthews, Kristine and Susan Sanderson and Don Hrynew.

hoe business near Bruderheim. They have three children Julie, Charles and Michael. Robert — married Idella Roth. They have four children: Rebekah, Joni, Nathan and Benjamin. They live in Lindbergh, Alberta.

William — was born in 1908 and attended Longridge School. Later with his brother Walter bought a registered Clydesdale Stallion and serviced mares in the Holden area. Bill married Lena Pickering of Leduc. They have one son Donald. Don and Violet have a daughter Bonnie. Bill lives at Sundre and takes in all the horse shows and rodeos.

Victoria — (1911-1962) married Stewart Heffel of Holden and operated a restaurant there, before moving to Alliance. They had three children: Grant — married Pat Bray. They have two children Kim and Greg and live in Edmonton. Shirley — married Don Schneider, a minister. They and their children Trevor and Pamela live at Penticton, B.C. Vena — married Wayne Meyer. They live in Calgary. Stewart is remarried and living in Kelowna, B.C.

Thomas — was born in 1914 and attended Longridge School, before joining the 49th Regiment in 1939. He was with them until 1945. His first son Lawrence has a construction company near St. Paul, where he lives with his wife Margot and two children Marcel and Bridgette. Tom and his wife Mabel live in Peace River where he worked as a mechanic until retiring in 1979. Their children Nelson and Lucille and granddaughter Darcy also live in Peace River.



Dorothea and Charles Mathews, Kyla, Elise and Kirk.

yearning for a life in the country, we purchased Nick Howrsh's farm about three quarters of a mile east of Holden (N½-13-49-16) and moved there in September. Now Charlie could also raise cattle, pigs and chickens as well as teach school. In July we moved a large two storey house from Edmonton out to our farm and the endless renovations began. In the spring of 1976 we subdivided and sold all but 25.2 acres of our land to Wayne Schuller.

In 1973 we were blessed with our first daughter, Elise Anne. I went back to teaching for two days a week in the Resource Room until our son, Kirk Charles was born on December 25, 1976. What a Christmas present! I then taught part-time until March 1979. Our second daughter, Kyla Marie, was born in 1979 and then I became a full time wife and mother.

Charlie is actively involved in coaching and refereeing many of the school's sporting activities. He is presently fire chief of the Village of Holden, vice-president of the Holden Lutheran Church and president of the Holden A.T.A. sub-local. He has also served on the Holden Recreational Board and the Holden Agricultural Society Board.

Mathews, Charles family by Dorothea Mathews

Charles Alexander Mathews, better known as "Charlie", son of Alex and Elizabeth Mathews formerly of the Holden area, was born in Edmonton and lived with his family in the Looma and Leduc areas. After losing both his parents, his dad in 1956 and his mom in 1959, he came to live with the William Maarens who live northeast of Ryley. Here he finished his high school and met me, Dorothea Sand, his high school sweetheart, daughter of Erling and Olive Sand of the Amisk Creek Community.

We both attended Camrose Lutheran College and the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. In the fall of 1967 we were hired by the County of Beaver #9, Charlie to teach science in the Junior High School in Holden and myself to teach grade two in Viking.

We were married in 1968 in Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose. We moved into the County house which is now the Holden Sub-Office of the Vegreville Health Unit. I transferred from the Viking School to the Holden School as grade four teacher.

In the summer of 1969, because of Charlie's

I am secretary-treasurer of the Holden Parent Nursery and the Holden Brownie and Guide Local Association as well as being secretary of the Holden Lutheran Church Council and vice-president of the Lutheran Church Women.

Mattis, Fritz (Fred)

by Ethel (Mattis) Candlish

Fred Mattis was born in Herrnsstadt, Germany in 1884.

In 1902 he immigrated to North Dakota where he lived and worked with a relative. In 1905 he came to Bruce, Alberta and filed on the SW 14-47-15-W4.

Fred found it difficult getting in and out of his homestead to catch a train at Daysland or Vegreville. He had to walk, and there were no roads to follow.

His father, mother, and younger brother Paul joined him a few years later. His father was a good carpenter, so a well built house, large barn and sheds were constructed.

Paul passed away at the age of eighteen or nineteen.

Fred drove a McLaughlin-Buick. He found it necessary to carry several poplar poles. These were placed under each wheel for traction when the car got stuck in mud. He stopped often to measure tree stumps to see if the car could get over them before he could continue on his way to court Minnie Nowodvorski.

Fred and Minnie were married in 1918 and lived on his farm southwest of Bruce. They had a wonderful life together.

The farm was fairly large and Fred found it necessary to keep a large herd of horses to operate the machinery. He always had hired help and was responsible for assisting several of these men to establish farms of their own. He was instrumental in helping one man bring his wife and daughter from Europe. The man was reluctant to return to Europe, having lived in Canada for eleven years.

The Mattis family had many "firsts" in the district: threshing machine, diesel tractor, cars, radio and a player piano.

Fred threshed for most of his neighbors in those early years. Bundles were stacked and threshing could continue well into late fall. Fred did most of his own blacksmithing, and it was not unusual to find neighbors at their door on a weekday or Sunday waiting to have some work done. This frustrated Minnie, especially when she wanted to go visiting on a Sunday. She was successful in eventually persuading him to give up blacksmith work.

Farming was profitable despite the occasional years of hailstorms. There was always an ample supply of food. It was not unusual for Fred to buy ten

large boxes of apples at a time, cases of grapes and double sided boxes of oranges. Meats were smoked and canned and hundreds of quarts of fruit preserved.

Fred and Minnie were very kind people and affectionately referred to as "Mom and Dad" by many. Minnie's youngest sister, Myrtle, and Elias Johnson's son Leonard lived with them for several years.

Fred served as secretary for the Unity S.D. for many years, and teachers boarded at their home.

Catholic Sisters who occasionally travelled through the district often spent the night in the Mattis home, and passing travellers would stop to share a meal.

Fred and Minnie had three daughters and one son.

Ethel married Stewart Candlish. They are retired and reside in Daysland, Alberta. They have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Agnes married M. L. Carter. They are retired and live on an acreage at Red Bluff, California. They have two sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

Elsie married Harold O. Lunn. They are retired and reside in Salem, Oregon. They have one daughter and one grandchild.

Fred married Ollie Rizun. They live in Edmonton where Fred is an instructor at N.A.I.T. They have one son.

While their family were still at home, they often attended Edmonton Exhibitions, travelled by car and train to the United States and enjoyed many camping trips to larger lakes and resorts.

When the children left home and farm help was difficult to hire, Fred and Minnie decided to retire from farming. They moved to Daysland in 1960. They spent their time visiting their children in Hawaii and the United States.

Fred passed away in 1963. Minnie continues to live alone in Daysland.

McCarter, George Family

by Robert R. McCarter

George McCarter came to Canada in 1905 from Merville, Iowa, U.S.A. He came with his father Ulysses McCarter, mother Blanche, and two sisters Bertha and Florence. They settled near Ohaton, Alberta.

George McCarter's fiancée Ula Maude Saunders from Merville, Iowa, followed, and they were married in Wetaskiwin, Alberta in 1906.

George took a homestead, the N.W. quarter of 16-47-16, which was one mile west of where they built the Sandstorm School on land which was purchased from the Lobergs.

George and his bride moved to the homestead and lived there until 1942 when they moved to Powell



Ulysses McCarter Family: Florence, Ulysses, George, Bertha and Blanche.

River, B.C. He then started working for the Powell River Co. which is one of the largest paper mills in the world.

George was a good ball player and played in many tournaments in the early days. George and Maude had six children and they all received their education in Sandstorm School. Their doctors were Dr. Farrel of Holden, and Dr. Sherrif and Dr. Borden of Daysland.



George McCarter family. Evelyn, Norma, Alice, Marvin, Bob, Clifford. Seated: Maud and George.

The McCarters' children were: Alice, the eldest, who married Martin Myrmo and lived just south of the home place on the correction line all her life. Clifford, the second child married Bernice Webster and they lived in Powell River, B.C. He was a welder in the mill. Marvin married Mary Beach and lives at Hanna, Alberta. He is an electrician. Evelyn was married to Walter Grosland. She lives at Abbotsford, B.C. Norma, married to Lawrence Anderson, resides at Powell River. Agnes Hendrickson and I, Robert were married and moved to Powell River in

1947. I worked in the paper mill for thirty-two years and am now retired.

We had four children. The eldest, Delores, is married to Nels Lundgren who has a trucking business in Powell River. They have one daughter and three sons. Marilyn, the second girl passed away in 1954. Gary married Evelyn Jackson and they have two daughters. Gary works in the mill at Powell River. Audrey, the youngest, is married to Colin Matheson, and they have two sons and a daughter. Colin is a paper maker at the mill.

Agnes and I celebrated our forty-sixth wedding anniversary in 1981, and had a picture taken with all our descendants, including children, grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCarter and descendants. Taken at their 46th Anniversary, 1981.

McCutcheon, Agnes (Hall) (1885-1947) by Stella Sorensen

Agnes McCutcheon came to Winnipeg from Nottingham, England as a small girl with her family, the Wm. Halls. Her father and eldest brother worked in the C.P.R. shops until they and many others were laid off. They came to what is now Alberta and homesteaded in the Joffre area in the late 1890's. Somewhat earlier, the John McCutcheon Sr. family had left a hotel business in Owen Sound, Ontario to come west and find land in the same area for them, a large family of seven boys and two girls. In 1907, Agnes married John Jr., one of the seven boys who in 1899, had homesteaded in the Clive area. To this union were born three boys, two of whom died at birth and the third (Norman) at nine from a mastoid operation, and one girl Stella (Mrs. Alfred Sorensen).

In 1919, they sold the now prosperous farm and moved to Edmonton. They lived there until Dad died in 1941. Mother had a very bad heart condition and was a semi-invalid at that time, so she lived with us on the farm at Poe for two years. Garry, born in 1940, had three grandparents in the yard to cater to him!



Agnes McCutcheon and Gary Sorensen in 1942.

Then, in 1943 with somewhat improved health, Mother decided to sell the home in Edmonton and buy one in Holden. She purchased the Shieman house at 4819-49 Ave. George Shieman, station agent, had built the house as a rental property, but when he died, Helen and two sons had to move out of the station. Later, a desire on their part to move to California made the house available. My better judgement said she should not be living alone, but she always said "she would rather wear out than rust out". So who was I to say nay!

Mother was a quiet, unassuming person. Because of this and less than robust health, she was not that well known in Holden during the few years she spent here. But those who did know her remember her for her kindness. Elsie Salamandick from Vegreville stayed with her for a time. At the time of her death, Fred Grube and Bill Carpenter from Viking were "batching" in the garage and going to school here. She died suddenly in 1947 — the last of my immediate family.

McFadyen, Don and Shirley

In 1964 we moved to Holden from Bruce, as Don had been transferred with the Federal Grain Company. We had three children, Gordon, Donna and Bar-

bara, aged 3 to 7 at the time. Brian and Sheri were born during our years in Holden. Don enjoyed working with the farm residents of the area. As a volunteer with many organizations in the community, Don served as fire chief, cub leader, hockey coach, an ardent curler and ball player. Shirley did much substitute teaching in Holden, Bruce and Ryley. We were all actively involved in the United Church.

We were transferred to Rimbey in 1970. However Don was forced to leave the elevator in 1972 due to grain allergies. Now self employed, Don is in the painting and roofing business. He continued to be an active community supporter serving time on the recreation board, hospital board, Boy Scouts, fire department, town council and as an ambulance driver. As the Justice of the Peace and Marriage Commissioner for the area, he has officiated at many weddings. Shirley's substitute teaching soon turned into a permanent position in grade one.



Don McFadyen family at their 25th Anniversary in 1981. Standing: Donna, Janet, Gordon, Brian, Barbara and Sheri. Seated: Shirley and Don.

Gordon, Donna and Barbara completed their schooling here in Rimbey. Gordon received a B.A. degree in Edmonton and is now in theology studies at the United Church Emmanuel College in Toronto. Donna has completed a degree in Education and is enjoying her teaching profession (presently at Darwell). Barbara is exploring possibilities of a future in the church or in banking. Still in school, Brian is in high school and Sheri is in junior high.

Following their schooling, Barbara and Gordon both attended a winter session at the United Church Centre for continuing education, at Naramata, B.C. (It was here that Gordon met his future wife). In 1978 Gordon was selected by Canada World Youth, for an exchange program in Third World Countries. For four months he lived in Quebec learning to speak French, followed by four months in Senegal, Africa. Along with others he helped the community make concrete blocks, which were then used to build a

community center. He also helped in the planting and watering of trees in an effort to reclaim outlying parts of the Sahara Desert.

Don was born and raised in Islay, Alberta. His grandparents had settled there from Scotland and Illinois (Norwegian). After receiving all of his early schooling in Islay, he attended highschool at Kitscoty. He learned the elevator business with the Searle Grain Co. in Vermilion. As a relief agent, he was assigned to Bruce in 1955, where he met Shirley Parfett.

Shirley was born, raised and educated in the Bruce area. Her parents, John and Meryl Parfett, had settled there from Watson, Saskatchewan, but originally from England and Scotland (Gordon clan). Her dad ran the National Grain Co. elevator, so he was Don's opposition! Having studied education at U of A, Shirley had returned to Bruce and was teaching grade one.

Shirley and Don were married in 1956. Don was now a permanent agent at Bruce and there we lived for eight years, until our transfer to Holden.

Recent happy events in our family have been Gordon's marriage to Janet Dougan of Edmonton in 1980, and our own 25th wedding anniversary in 1981. Donna is engaged to George Kurowski of Wabamum, with wedding plans for 1983. George works with Transalta Utilities as a steam engineer.

McIsaac, William and George

by Margaret Hrynew

Bill McIsaac arrived from Winnipeg to farm the Malcolm place, NE 14-49-16-W4 in 1925. His brother George came the following year to give him a hand. Bill and George have many memories of the famous Holden ball team on which they played. George played goalie on the hockey team. Everyone cheered when Bill walked in to watch the wrestling match (Bill had grabbed a chair at the previous match to bash the mean wrestler!)

A spanking new binder was purchased in 1934, and a good day spent putting it together, ready to go the following day, then off to the wrestling match for the evening. They came home to find their crop completely hailed out. They spent the following day taking the machine apart to return it.

Although Uncle Bill was a pretty fair cook, sister Elizabeth (Bessie) arrived in 1936 to cook for them. She later married Alex Mathews.

Several bad crop years and the war, sent George back to Winnipeg in 1939. Bill left to join the army in 1940.

After the army Bill settled down in Winnipeg as a butcher. He married Helen (Nell) Gilmore. Bill passed away in 1967. His widow lives in Winnipeg.

George married Margaret (Sis) Cooper and although they live in Winnipeg since retirement from the C.N.R., they spend most of their time at their cottage at Lake Winnipeg. (For pictures see Charles Mathews Sr. story).

McKeith Family

by Wilson McKeith

My father, John McKeith filed on S.E. 32-50-15-W4 in 1901. Grandfather McKeith filed on S.W. 32-50-15-W4. My maternal grandfather, August Wilson filed on his homestead, N.E. 28-50-15 somewhat earlier. Some of the original homesteaders were John Haugen, John Jacobson, Orville Thompson, and Tom Bishop. They came all single men and married later.



J. McKeith family — July 1915. Edith and John McKeith, Wilson, Ethel, Lula and Harvey.

My father and mother, Edith Willson, were married in 1903. I was born on January 10, 1906, followed by my sisters Ethel and Lulu, then brother Harvey. All were born in the original shack with no doctor. I was about sixteen months when I first got into trouble. I was out with Dad when he was watering his horses from the barn. When he returned with another team he couldn't see a toddler anywhere. He heard a squawk from the well. He gave a holler for Mother and dived in after me, no ladder. Mother pulled me out in the pail. She didn't wait to see if Dad got out, but he made it. The well was twenty-two feet deep, and water was pulled out with a rope and pulley.

Early in 1913, Dad rented the farm to Norman Griffin. As there was no school for us kids to go to at



McKeith's homestead shack where the family was born and the old mare broke through the floor.

Holden, we spent the next three summers in Victoria, B.C. Father passed away in 1915, and we returned to the farm in early 1916, still no school until 1920. I finished grade eight in 1922 and that was the end of my school days.

One incident I remember well in the early winter of 1916. We kids had been left alone for the day. I noticed that a registered mare had somehow got into the old house and broken into the cellar. I, being the oldest at ten, couldn't do much, so I got my clothes on and walked the two and a half miles to get help from Norman Griffin. There was snow on the ground and Norman hitched up his team. He was able to get the mare out but she died later. There was wheat at one end of the old house and a lot of it had gone into the cellar. It was an awful mess. I was supposed to have forgotten to hook the door, so that was how the horse got in. Anyway, I think I hooked that door.

I worked the farm for my mother from 1924 till 1930. Spring and summer of 1931 I worked as a farm hand at Vimy, and in 1932 I worked for a farmer at Kelsey.

I returned to the home farm in 1933, under a rental and purchase deal but gave it up as a bad job in 1937. During this time, I happened to be in Holden and when I came home I found I had lost my last ten dollars. Did I really feel bad! Next time I went to town and into Don Allan's store, he offered me a ten dollar bill and said that I had lost it on the floor. Thanks again, Don Allan.

Our local lawyer did his best to get me established on the old home place. After farming three years at Viking I decided to quit farming (lots of work, but very little money). I tried my hand at flour milling at Rycroft, then went into the electrical and plumbing business for twenty years.

I was married to the former Grace Thomlinson in

1947. Best thing I ever did in my whole life. During these twenty years we lived at Rycroft, Coronack, Saskatchewan, Parksville B.C., Grimshaw, and Manning. Here we operated B & G Plumbing, B & G being of course "Bill & Grace".

We thought the farm was a better place to bring up our two boys, Bill, born at Spirit River, and Lloyd born at Berwyn. We moved to a farm at Legal in 1960, then bought another at Vilna in 1969. We lost a wonderful wife and mother, in a car accident in February, 1970. Grace had been born and raised mostly at Bremner.

I have since married another Bremner girl, Eleanor Reynolds. (They raise good girls at Bremner.) We sold the farm at Vilna in 1973, bought a home in Salmon Arm, B.C. and lived there two years. We then purchased an acreage at Oliver, B.C. and built a home on it. We sold that in 1978, and moved back to Alberta, where we bought the N.E. 16-64-7-W4. This might be my last move.

Our older son Lloyd is married with one daughter, and is a certified auto body mechanic at Rycroft. Bruce is now a master electrician, operating his own business as a contractor in Red Deer. My step daughter and her husband Gene Murrant are operating the B & G which her mother and I started in 1954.

My sister Ethel, a nurse, passed away in 1966. Sister Lulu is living in Victoria, B.C. while brother Harvey, and his wife are at Horsefly, B.C.

McLennan, Kenneth Thompson, Alexander

Kenny and Sandy were a pair of congenial bachelors who were liked by their acquaintances and friends.

They were born in the 1870's in Manitoba and Ontario respectively. Both arrived in Edmonton around 1910 and each bought a team and wagon. They earned their living by hauling coal from the Dawson Mine. Kenny and Sandy boarded and roomed at Crimmins and kept their horses in Neal's barn.

Neal Crimmin and Kenny formed a partnership and went to Holden to farm in 1917. Sandy came to Holden later and worked as a hired man part of the time for Kenny and Neal and for other farmers.

Later Sandy and Kenny started out farming together on what was known then as the Halvorson place (now McMorran's). After a number of years there they moved to a farm a short distance north of Bruce. After Sandy died Kenny moved to Bruce and resided there until he passed away. Both are buried in the Bruce Cemetery.

McLennan, William Kenneth by Grace (McLennan) Pepper

William Kenneth McLennan was born in Maydoch, Ontario in 1885. He left home at the early age of 17, travelling west as far as Manitoba, working in a sawmill. While there he had an accident which injured his leg, leaving him with a permanent limp.



Kenneth McLennan, first elevator man at Poe.

Upon hearing that his father had taken off for Australia to look for gold, and his mother Almira, sister Jessie Bradley, and brother Clayton had gone to Alberta, he decided to go west. Newspapers in Ontario were advertising lots for sale at Poe, Alberta, so his mother foresaw big happenings at this place called "Poe". She loaded a railway car with lumber and brought it west to build a store. It was north of the tracks and was moved to its present location in the 1940's. People bought lots but when the town didn't materialize, they quit paying taxes and let the lots go. Clayton worked around Ryley, was married in 1913, and went farming south of Ryley in the Shaw district. Jessie Bradley had been a teacher so she taught school around the district. Mrs. Almira McLennan looked after the store, passing away in 1917. She is buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Kenneth worked at the Poe elevator and as far as I know, he was the first agent. He acquired land north of Poe. Prior to 1921, he went up to the Peace River district and took up a homestead north of Dunvegan Crossing. In the spring of 1921 he married Hansina Christina Christensen. She had come to the Holden district with her family as a young girl. She was born in Denmark in 1892. Kenneth and Sinna raised a



McLennan family: Bruce, Grace, Glen, Walter, Jimmy.

family of five children, all of whom attended school at Poe and Ryley.

Walter Kenneth was born January 1922. He rode a bike to Poe and Ryley Schools in the summer and walked in winter. After completing Grade 12, he was called to the Army. He went overseas with the Medical Corps and saw action in Europe. After his discharge, he settled in Powell River, B.C. working in a pulp and paper mill. Then he met and married Juanita McKay. They have a family of two children, David and Susan. Walter passed away in the fall of 1966.

Glen Edward was born November 1922. He attended school at Poe and Ryley. He liked to travel, so he rode the rails before the war. He joined the R.C.A.F. and later transferred to the Army Tank Corps at Camp Borden. After his discharge he moved to Vancouver and started in the taxi business. Later he dealt in real estate. He married Amy Meredith. They have three children, Ella, Cathy and Kenny, who all live in the Vancouver area.

William Bruce was born in 1925 and went to school at Poe and Ryley. A couple of winters he worked in a bush camp and helped on the farm in summer. He joined the R.C.A.F. and later transferred to the Army, stationed in Canada. After his discharge, he also went to Vancouver and is in the taxi business. He married and has a family of three — Stephen, twins Jennifer and Michael. They all live in the Vancouver area.

I, Grace Eileen, was born in 1926. I was the happy event after three boys. I attended school at Poe and Ryley and rode a bike five miles to school. I helped on the farm when the boys were off to war. I married Clifford Pepper of Ryley and moved to a farm in the Ohaton district. Our family consists of two girls, Patricia and Linda. We still enjoy farming

but are taking things easier and I suppose, thinking of retiring as the years go by. We have been involved in community and church work.

James Roy was born in 1928. When he finished his stint at Poe school, he farmed with his father. His interest in farming has him owning the family farm. Since then he has added to his holdings which includes the former site of Poe. Jim has never married so he is what you would call an eligible bachelor. A new house was built in 1951 with running water, power, gas and telephone — four rooms and a bath instead of four rooms and a path! Jim is the only farmer at Poe that still has the original farm his father owned.



Sinne and Kenneth McLennan, 1967.

In 1971, the McLennans quietly celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with the family at the Viking Nursing Home where Kenneth was a patient at the time. Kenneth passed away in 1971 at the age of 86. When mother was unable to care for herself, she went to the Nursing Home in Killam where she passed away in 1978, at the age of 86. Her death marked the end of an era of the family of Christensens that came from Denmark at the turn of the century.

One thing I remember well — years ago my mother ordered two lilac bushes from a seed catalogue. I am sure anytime somebody came for a visit, they were given a lilac root to take home to plant, so many lilacs blooming in the district now, probably came from Mom.

McLeod, James and Lillian **by Lillian McLeod (nee Carlson)**

My parents names were Axel and Minnie Carlson. I was born in Gwinner, North Dakota in 1914.

I came to Canada with my mother, as my dad had come with his brother Wilfred earlier to build a house for us on the farms they had bought. We stayed with my aunt and uncle in Warner, Alberta until the house was ready. I started attending Vermillion Valley School at the age of eight, and continued until I had passed grade eight. Then I stayed home to help on the farm, as my mother had passed away when I was three years old.

I married James McLeod in 1937, and we farmed three miles south of Holden. Bernice was born in 1937, and Lorna in 1943. Both girls went to Holden School and graduated from grade twelve.

They both took nurses' training in Vegreville. Bernice graduated in 1960, and Lorna in 1964.

Bernice married Brian Williams in 1963. They have three children — Carla, Laurel and Mitchell. They lived in Edmonton until 1972 when they moved to Kamloops, B.C. where they now reside. Bernice is working part time in a medical clinic and Brian is a supervisor with the C.N.R.

Lorna married Ron Saik in 1965. They moved to Edmonton from St. Paul that same year and have remained there. They have two girls, Tracy and Carmen. Lorna is nursing part time in a doctor's office, and Ron has an Esso Service Station on the south side.

Jim and I moved from the farm at Holden to Edmonton in 1967. We both worked there until Jim passed away in 1970. I continued to work until 1980, which is the year I turned sixty-six and finally retired.

McLeod, John C.

John Cadger McLeod (Johnny) attended school at Vermillion Valley and Holden. In March, 1926, he went to work for the Alberta Lumber Company at Holden. In 1929 he went to Edmonton where he worked for the Burger Lumber Company and the Edmonton Paint and Glass until 1945. He then formed his own company, J. C. McLeod Building Supplies in North Edmonton, which he operated until he retired in 1974.

He was married in 1934 to Valeta Peckenpaugh. They have two sons, William and Brian.

William (Bill) is married to Pat Aitkin and they have two children, Danny and Karen. They reside in St. Albert. Bill is credit officer with the Federal Business Development Bank in Edmonton.

Brian is married to Colleen Goplin and they have three children, Sandy, Jamie and Robbie. They too

live in St. Albert, where Brian is General Manager of Marathon Forest Products.

McLeod, Ronald

Ronald lived on the farm with his mother and brother Bill until 1953.

In 1953 he married Myrtle Hooper and moved to Edmonton. He worked at J. C. McLeod Building Supplies, first as a truck driver and later on the order desk. He worked there until 1968, when ill health forced him to quit. Ron passed away in 1968.

Ronald and Myrtle had two boys, Randy born in 1959 and Ricky in 1963. They are both living in Edmonton. Randy who married Linda Gemmell in 1981 works for Edmonton Power. Rick is employed with the Edmonton Journal.

McLeod, William

by John C. McLeod

William McLeod was born in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1879. He was the oldest of a family of eleven. He worked in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. He joined the Lord Lovatt Scouts in Edinburgh and served in the South African War from 1900 to 1902. He returned to Scotland in 1903 and came to Canada in 1904. His bride-to-be, Mary Cadger, was born in New Deer, Aberdeenshire in 1880. She worked in Edinburgh and in 1905 immigrated to Canada. She and Bill were married at Kenora, Ontario, in 1905. Bill McLeod worked for the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. at Keewatin, Ontario, and



Standing: Mrs. McLeod and Ronald. Kneeling: John, Jim and Bill.

operated the skating and curling rinks during the winter. The McLeods had five sons William (1906), John (1907), James (1910), Peter (1912) and Ronald (1917). Peter was drowned in the Winnipeg River in 1913 and is buried in the Kenora Cemetery. The McLeod family left Keewatin in 1919 and arrived in Holden, Alberta, on May 19, 1919. They settled on the S.E. ¼, 35-48-16, which is approximately three

and a half miles south of Holden. Another half section was added in the following ten years. Wm. McLeod passed away in the fall of 1929 and is buried in the Holden Cemetery. His widow, Mary McLeod, carried on with the farm with the help of her sons for many years. She developed a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis and after seventeen years of illness — much of it spent in hospitals in Lamont, Banff and Edmonton, she passed away in the summer of 1958, and is buried in the Holden Cemetery.

William McLeod (Bill) the oldest son, stayed on the farm after his father's death, until his own death in 1971. He too, is buried in the Holden Cemetery.

McMurray, Kathleen

Mrs. Kathleen McMurray (a widow) with her two sons George and Eric came to Canada in 1925 on the S.S. Doric, with her brother Charles Lamb and family. A friend, Kate Cameron came with them.

The McMurrays settled on the same farm as the Lambs. Kathleen had Even Olsen build her a little house. George and Eric attended the West Bruce School.

Mary Lamb, widowed mother of Kathleen and Charles, came from Northern Ireland to Holden in 1927. On the advice of her doctor she moved to Penticton B.C. Here she located a home for Kathleen and her family. Kathleen sold her home to its builder. This house is still in Holden and has the number 4808-50th Avenue.

Mrs. Mary Lamb died in 1929 and is buried in the Penticton Cemetery. Mrs. Kathleen McMurray died in 1979 in her 94th year and is buried in the Penticton Cemetery too. Kate Cameron has also passed away and is buried in B.C.

George McMurray and his wife Dorothy live in Penticton. They have three children David, Diane, and Patty. Eric McMurray and his wife Dorothy live on Vancouver Island. They had six children, Kathleen, Edith, Ruth, Fred, Joy and Grace.

McWhirter, Andrew Lavin

by Mrs. Sophia Bruce

Andrew McWhirter was born in 1879 at Canby, Minnesota. He came to Canada with his parents in 1895 to a homestead near Camrose. Later he filed on a homestead in the Palmer District. This land is now farmed by Lawrence and Vernon Hovland.

Andrew was noted for his beautiful vegetable and flower gardens. He enjoyed giving of his fruits to all who came to admire and visit. He was also well known for baking lovely cakes for birthdays and anniversaries for his friends.

Andrew and John Bruce owned and operated a



Andrew McWhirter at home in Palmer district.

Case steam threshing outfit. Andrew was well known for the many years in the threshing career which he really loved.

He gave up his homestead due to hard times in 1932 and moved to the Cold Lake area near Lessard. Here he farmed, fished and gardened. He retired to Ardmore in 1952. In 1961 he made his home in the Bonnyville Senior Citizens' Home. He passed away in 1962 at the age of 83 years.

Meadahl, Martin Family

Martin Meadahl immigrated to Canada with his parents, brother and sisters from Trondheim, Norway to Canada in the early years of 1900. They settled in the Gladstone district northeast of Bawlf. He enlisted in the Canadian Artillery Corps and was stationed in Calgary, Petawawa, Ontario and overseas and saw active service in Belgium and France. He returned to Canada in 1919 and bought a quarter section of land a mile south of the Hegre Lutheran Church.



Martin Meadahl family. Back Row: Douglas, Ruby, Ardis, Gordon and Dennis. Seated: Mabel and Martin.

In 1923, he married Mabel, a daughter of Peder and Emma Forre who came from Newman Grove, Nebraska and resided in the Palmer district southwest of Holden. Martin and Mabel continued farming northeast of Bawlf and in the early 1930's Martin started a trucking service hauling cream, grain and livestock and on return trips, he would bring back groceries, repairs, etc. to the neighbors.

Six children were born to this union; namely, Ruby married Carl Sorensen. (See Carl Sorensen Story). Gordon married Gladys Kabush, and has one son, Brian. Gordon, Gladys and Brian reside on their farm east of Bawlf. Dennis who married Joyce Farness, resides on a farm, northeast of Camrose. They had a family of three sons; Keith, Randy and Wayne and two daughters Karen and Cheryl. Budd Allan passed away at the age of four months in 1935. Ardis married Dennis Peterson and they reside on a farm east of Camrose. They have a son, Mark and a daughter, Michele. Douglas married Judy Kominisky of Innisfree and they presently reside in Sherwood Park. They have two sons, Trevor and Troy.

In the spring of 1944, Martin and Mabel moved to the Ole Smorlie farm in the Palmer district south of Holden where they resided until 1956 when they retired from farming and moved to Camrose. Martin passed away in 1965 and Mabel continues to reside in Camrose.

While they resided in the Bawlf and Palmer districts, Martin was active in all types of sports; in the summer it was baseball and in the winter it was curling.

Melezko, John and family

by Sylvia Maslyk

Annie Borys came from the Buchach district of Ukraine to Canada in 1930. She worked for an aunt in St. Michael for a year. In 1932 she married John Melezko who had come from Lvov, Ukraine several years earlier. In 1930 and 1931 he worked for Chris Christensen, who lived in the Poe area. John Melezko bought a half section of land near Poe (S½-25-49-17-W4) and together John and Annie farmed there for twenty six years.

The farm was directly across the road from Poe school, and a teacher, Marion Lukawiecki lived part of the time at their place. Their children Mary, Jim and Sylvia all attended Poe school for part of their school years. Mary went to high school in Ryley, while Jim and Sylvia completed their education at Holden when school buses came into being. Many end of the year school picnics at Poe were held on a pasture at the Melezko farm, when neighbors from the district gathered for visiting, baseball and picnicking.



Melezko family: James, Annie, John, Sylvia.

John Melezko died in 1958. His son Jim continued to farm the land until 1979 when he sold the southwest quarter. He lived in Edmonton for a year and presently has a restaurant business in Dawson Creek, B.C. He married Sylvia Bodnar of Shonts, Alberta. They have five children; Joyann, Bonnie, Carol, Michael and Joseph.

Mary worked at the Ryley Treasury Branch before she married John Durda of Thorhild. They now reside in Edmonton and have three children; Donald, Sonya and Patricia.

Sylvia married Bob Maslyk of Edmonton. She teaches school there and her family includes two sons, Barry and Berny.

Annie Melezko continued to live on the farm after her husband died. In 1968 she married Peter Nahirniak, who had also farmed in the Poe district. They now live in Vegreville, Alberta.

Meyer, Melvin by Bertha Skarsgard

My cousin Melvin was born in 1895 at Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. He came to Holden, Alberta in the spring of 1913 with his uncle and aunt, Ole and Anna Gullickson, making his home with them until 1920. He raised horses and coyote hounds which were used for hunting coyotes at that time, and he was employed by farmers in the district, two which I can remember were Oscar Burnstad and Lars Ritland.

In 1915, he filed on a homestead at St. Paul, Alberta but never proved it up. In 1918, he was called back to the U.S.A. to report for the army, but developed the flu, and by the time he had recovered, the



Melvin Meyers and horse in the early '20's.

war was over. He then returned to Holden again. He was active in sports and played on the Holden baseball team.

In 1920, he accompanied the Gullickson family to Sturgeon River, Saskatchewan, spending six weeks there before returning to Holden. He then became engaged in farming. I believe he rented a farm from Stanley Francis and became a close friend of Henry and Frances Hansen.

After making the two more trips to Sturgeon River, he moved there to make his home in 1927. He then had a full line of horse machinery, eighteen horses plus a Belgian stallion, cows and a purebred Shorthorn bull and three dogs. In 1928 he returned to Holden and hired Richard (Dick) Johnstone as his hired man.

In 1934 he married Eleanor Servatius. They were blessed with four children. Mona is married to Erland Person, a farmer and has a son and a daughter. Carol married Donald Person, also a farmer and has a son. Colleen married John Danberg, a welder, and has two boys and a girl. All reside in Canwood, Saskatchewan. Henry and his wife Doreen have four daughters and reside in Big River.

Eleanor passed away in 1960. Melvin continued to work at the hospital and was janitor of the school at Big River until retirement age when he moved to Canwood. He made a few trips back to Holden, and found many changes and missed many of his old friends that were gone from there.

He has been a guest at Anderson's Care Home in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan since 1976 or 1977 and was still able to ride horseback in 1981 when accompanied by the horse's owner.

Micklich, John and Jacob

John and Jacob were born in 1929, twin sons of Nick and Mary Micklich. Being identical twins one

was often mistaken for the other. Many times the wrong one was punished for something the other one did, and the guilty one would have a good laugh. Even in school they would fool the teacher by switching names.

When they completed their education in 1946, they went farming with their dad and brother Paul. In 1947 they rented a half section of land from Mr. and



Micklich twins, John and Jacob.

Mrs. Malcolm, which they later bought, also in 1947 their dad retired. Shortly after this Paul married and moved to his own place and John and Jacob continued farming together, an arrangement they still have.

In 1963 Jacob married Annette Hryciuk of Vilna, and they live on the home place. They have three children, Christine born in 1965, Pamela in 1967 and Terry in 1969. They attend Holden School.

John married Pauline Hasiuk of Myrnam in 1966. They reside on a farm near Jacob's place.

Micklich, Nick and Mary

Nick Micklich came to Canada by ship in 1902 from Ukraine, province of Haychana in the county of Borschiw. Having nothing for transportation, he went looking for work on foot. One day he came to a farm home, occupied by the Bartman family. There were several nice girls in the family; this encouraged Nick to stay around for a while. He became acquainted with one in particular, Mary, and they eventually married.

Nick acquired three quarters of land and started farming. Later he got two oxen which helped him plow fields and pull logs to build buildings. He built a log house and a long log barn, plastered with clay.

When groceries were needed, Nick walked to Edmonton, a trip which took three or four days. While walking on one of these trips, he saw in the



Nick Micklich family, 1927.

distance what seemed like a small hill. As he came closer a man emerged from this hill (this was a house dug into a hill) and motioned for him to come in. They shook hands and the man offered him hot tea and bread, for which Nick was grateful. As Nick spoke only Ukrainian, he could not converse with this man who spoke another language. However Nick was very grateful for his hospitality, they shook hands and smiled and he was on his way again.

Nick often spoke of the many wild horses that roamed the country, and one had to be aware of them, especially when the stallions were fighting. He had a frightening experience once when he was nearly run over by some of these horses, had he not hid behind a tree.

Nick and Mary were church going people and along with their family would walk seven miles to Borschiw Church to attend Mass. Christmas and Easter were always important. The traditional Christ-



Nick Micklich family, 1937.

mas Eve supper, with the twelve meatless dishes was served, starting with a wheat dish (Kootia). Wine was also served. After the meal the family sang Christmas Carols. At Easter, baskets of food would be taken to church to be blessed and on Easter Sunday the blessed food was always served first. St. John's Day on June 24 was also a very special day (Praznik). Mary would make a big dinner for the family and guests.

As years went by more progress was made with the purchase of some horses and in 1918, Nick and Mary decided to build a new house, of lumber. By this time they had five children. Then tragedy struck when Mary passed away, leaving six children motherless. Bill was thirteen years old, Annie was ten, Harry was seven, Maisie four, Stephanie (Stella) a year and a half and Mary three hours old. Nick was heart broken, and the worry of raising these children alone was great. To ease the situation, the children's grandparents, the Bartmans, took the baby to care for.

Time went on, and a friend told Nick about a widow he knew in Northern Valley about a hundred miles east of Holden. Her name was Mary Chawrun, and she had three children. Nick became acquainted with her and in 1919 they were married. Her children were Annie five years old, Nellie four and Minor was two. So together, Nick and Mary became the happy parents of nine children. As years went by, they had their own children, Paul, Dorothy, Florence, Irene (deceased) and twins John and Jacob.

The Nick Micklich home was a stopping place for many weary travellers, who walked or travelled by team and wagon to the Mundare flour mill, for their winter supply of flour. Many spent the night there.

As years went by and the children grew older, Nick had bought a half a section of land four miles north of Holden for his son Bill. The land had to be cleared and broken and he hired men to help with this work. First the land was plowed with eight horses. Later Nick traded some horses for a Hart Parr tractor, which made plowing much faster and easier. Over the years the children all helped with the farm work. Maisie did a lot of field work, while Bill had a great love for horses, grooming them to perfection. He also helped in the breaking of many young horses. There were also cows to be milked and hogs to be fed. Mary raised chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. From the duck and goose feathers she would make lovely pillows and big loose quilts.

Eventually the children grew up, left home to pursue their various occupations.

In 1927, Annie Micklich married Mike Kobyluk. They farmed southeast of Holden, and are now retired, living in Edmonton. They had three children; Paul, John and Helen.

Bill married Annie Chawrun in 1932 (refer to Wm. Micklich history).

Stephie (Stella) married Bill Hoynick in 1938. They farmed in the Daysland area, and are now retired, living in Camrose.

In July of 1938, Harry and Maisie were married in a double wedding. Harry married Sophie Kozdrowski, and they lived in Holden where Harry worked at Allan's Hardware. They were blessed with two daughters, Marianne and Elizabeth (Betty). Maisie married Dan Rogutski of Derwent. They farmed there and are now retired, living in Vegreville. Their children are Christine, Borus, Marvin and Ralph. For this wedding a large platform was built in their parents' yard, where the guests danced.

Nellie married Mike Chernawski. They farmed near Mundare, where they still live, and are now semi-retired. They have two children, MaryAnn and Marvin.

Minor Chawrun married Eva Rosko in 1947. He served in the army and when he was discharged in 1946, he purchased the Henderson farm, north of Holden, which he purchased through the V.L.A. In 1954 he sold the land to John and Jacob Micklich and moved to Edmonton where he still resides. They have three children; Germaine, Robin and Garry.

In 1944, Mary married Dick Malahowski and they farmed near Derwent. Dick passed away in 1948. Mary then married John Hoynick of Daysland, and she has two stepchildren Irene and Dennis. John and Mary retired to Camrose, John passed away in 1980.

Paul married Lena Obnowka of Sexsmith. (See Paul Micklich history)

Dorothy married Pat Sharuga, and they farm in the Daysland area. Their children are Diane, Douglas and Rennée.

Florence married Alex Pooke (see Alex Pooke history).

Jacob married Annette Hrysiuk and John married Pauline Hasiuk. (see John and Jacob Micklich history).

Nick and Mary Micklich endured great sorrow and many hardships during the early years, yet they made their home a loving place for their children and grandchildren.

Nick passed away in 1967 at the age of 89, and Mary in 1971 at the age of 84.

Micklich, Paul Family by Paul Micklich

I was born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Micklich in 1920. I received my education at the one room rural school of Holmdene. Teachers that I remember are Mr. McGee, Jack Tymchuk, and Roman



Lena and Paul Micklich, 1948.

Bayduza. After finishing school, I stayed home and helped my dad with the farming.

In 1947 I bought W½ 6-50-15 from Mr. Henderson. In 1948 I married Lena Obniawka of the Sexsmith area and we went into mixed farming. We were blessed with four children. The oldest, Arthur, married Debby Dary in 1980. They live on an acreage which was subdivided from my farm. He is teaching junior high math at the Holden School. Doreen, our infant daughter was deceased in 1950. Brian married Barbara Kawalilak in 1977 and they are living in Kitscoty, Alberta, where he is teaching junior high math. They have one daughter Adrienne. Darlene, our youngest, married Jerry White in 1978. They live at Fox Creek where Darlene teaches grade two. They have one son, Jay Jackson.



Brian, Darlene and Arthur Micklich, 1957.

Micklich, William and Anne

William Micklich was born in 1906 on his father's homestead located in the Holmdene district seven miles north of Holden. He was the oldest son of Nick and Mary (nee Bartman) Micklich. He received his basic education at the Holmdene school and also



William and Anne Micklich.

studied religion at St. Joseph's Convent, Mundare, Alberta.

Anne Micklich was born in 1914 at Elk Point, Alberta. She was the daughter of Metro and Mary Chawrun. At a young age, shortly after her father's death, she and her family moved to the Holden district. She too attended Holmdene school where she completed her junior high education.

William and Anne were married in 1932. Shortly after they settled on the E½-1-50-16 which was four and a half miles north of Holden. This land was purchased from Mr. McVittie who was a contractor for the C.N. Railway. William carried on a mixed farming operation and also showed a keen interest in raising pure bred Hereford cattle and Clydesdale horses.



William Micklich family. Back Row: Dwayne, Barry, Marsha and Ambrose Micklich, Lynda, Paul and Pam Zyla, and Wilbur Micklich. Middle Row: Evelyn, William and Kristy Micklich Terri Zyla, Anne and Sylvia Micklich. Front Row: Michael Michelle, Leeanne and Mark Micklich.

During his farming career he held a dispersal sale and moved to Edmonton where he ventured into business. His desire to again till the land brought him back to farming. In 1951 he increased his farming operation by purchasing the adjacent one half section of land from Mr. and Mrs. Sigurd Augustine. He discontinued farming in 1958, and moved to Vegreville, where he bought and operated a school bus for the Vegreville district until his retirement in 1976.

In 1977, William and Anne achieved their life long desire to visit their parents' homeland in the Ukraine. There they had the rare opportunity to visit relatives that they had met for the first time.

William and Anne raised a family of five children Theresa, Wilbur, Barry, Dwayne and Ambrose all of whom reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

Theresa completed her high school in Holden and then entered McTavish College in Edmonton. Upon completion of her training she was employed in that city. She married Paul Zyla and they have two children, Pam and Linda.

Wilbur received his high school education in Holden and entered the University of Alberta. He completed his Bachelor of Education degree and Graduate Diploma in School Administration. He is presently employed by the Edmonton Separate School Board where he is vice-principal at St. Martin's School. He married Sylvia (nee Powley) and they have two children Leeanne and Mark.

Barry, received his high school education at Vegreville and later entered N.A.I.T., where he received his diploma in Marketing Administration. He is presently employed by B.C. Packers as a sales representative. Barry married Marsha (nee Pasichney) and they have a daughter Kristy.

Dwayne received part of his high school education in Vegreville and completed the remainder at Alberta College. He is presently employed as sales manager for Manco Industrial supplies. He married Evelyn (nee Manowski) and they have a daughter Michelle and a son Michael.

The youngest son, Ambrose, received his high school education in Vegreville and entered the University of Alberta where he graduated with a B.Ed. degree. He is presently employed as the sales coordinator with Horne & Pitfield Foods Ltd.

Mielimaka, Anthony

by Helen Stecyk, as told by her mother, Josie Mielimaka

Anthony Mielimaka was born in Austria in 1893. He immigrated to Canada in 1911 and stayed in Calgary for a short while, where he worked on the railway. He then went to work in the coal mines in



Anthony and Josie Mielimaka.

Estevan, Saskatchewan, where his older brother Stanley was employed.

Josie was also born in Austria, in the same village in 1903. After W.W.I Anthony sent for her and she came to Canada in 1922, at the age of nineteen. They were married the same year.

Since work in the coal mines was very difficult they decided to look for a homestead. They travelled to Camrose and stayed with Josie's stepsister for a short while. They went to Wostok, where Anthony had a half sister where they stayed until they found some land. Anthony worked for the neighbours, digging up tree stumps, and was paid \$25.00 a month. A friend, Mr. Zawalek, told them of a place south of Holden. In the spring of 1924, they came here and bought a quarter from Mr. Patreson, for \$1800.00, the money he saved while working in the mines.

When they first bought the farm, life was very difficult. All their money had been spent in buying the land. They had no furniture nor stove, these were left in Saskatchewan. They slept on the floor and cooked over a bonfire. As winter neared they had

their bed, coal stove and a few other articles shipped in from Estevan, paying \$12.00 for freight. Mr. Johnson gave them an old stove to cook on. Anthony walked two miles everyday to buy milk from neighbours, the Christoffersons. To buy a cow for \$35.00 he stooked at their neighbours, the Hurums, for a whole month. They hauled all their firewood from the bush, carrying it on their backs, until Anthony built a stone boat. This was also used to go cross country to town to buy their groceries.



Anthony Mielimaka's family. Back Row: Helen (Stecyk), Kay (Slemko), Frances (Komarnisky), Joe, Ann (Bilyk), Mary (Bilyk). Front Row: Eileen (Komarnisky), Josie, Anthony and Amelia (Hall).

Anthony shot a lot of wild ducks for food, and Josie made quilts from the feathers. He bought some machinery which included walking plow, harrows, a small seed drill and also two more horses.

That winter, his half sister at Wostok was married. Anthony went to the wedding a distance of seventy-five miles by sleigh. The weather was stormy so he walked alongside the sleigh most of the way to keep warm. On the way he stopped at Mr. Bednarski's who sent his daughter, now Mrs. Annie Zowtuk, to stay with Josie and her two small children. The trip took over a week, and when he returned he brought back thirty chickens and a quarter of beef from his half sister's.

Anthony worked the fields with his small machinery, walking behind it all day long. One spring he was kicked by a horse and couldn't walk, so Josie had to do the plowing and harrowing until he was better. In the fall he cut the grain while Josie did all the stooking, leaving the children all by themselves. When they got older they had to make the meals and do the chores.

Mary, Anne and Katie went to Vermillion Valley School until the winter of 1933. The school was four and a half miles away, so Anthony took them there in

the morning, then picked them up after school. This made getting his field work done very difficult. He hired immigrants to work for him and paid them \$1.00 a day.

After the field work was done, Anthony worked out at different jobs to earn money. When the highway was being built south of Holden he worked for a whole month with horses and land scoop, hauling dirt. For this he got paid \$100.00. He also helped build municipal roads. This work was in exchange for part payment of the taxes which then were \$35.00.

Grain at that time sold for 17¢ to 30¢ a bushel. In the winter Anthony went to Mundare with a sleigh to have wheat ground into flour and wheat cereal. Josie did the chores while he was gone, usually two or three days.

They endured many hardships. Two years in a row their crop was hailed out, and they had no insurance. The grain was raked to use for feed, but this along with their hay burned when a smudge Josie had made got away. They almost lost the barn but somehow it was saved. That winter they had to buy feed for their cattle.

When the first Roman Catholic Church was built, Anthony helped cut bush and clear the land, and also helped with the building of it. Before that, church services were held in the Vermillion Valley school, and later in the C.N.R. station. In later years when the Greek Catholic Church was being built, he worked with his scoop and horses to dig the basement.

Anthony and Josie raised eight children. Their eldest daughter Mary was born in the Estevan hospital. The rest of the children, Anne, Katie, Helen, Frances, Joe, Amelia and Eileen were born on the farm with a midwife and Anthony helping with the delivery. When the children were older they helped



Back Row: Walter Komarnisky, Peter P. Komarnisky, Lloyd Bilyk, John Bilyk, Jean Mielimaka, Walter Slemko. Seated: Eileen, Frances, Annie, Mrs. Mielimaka, Mary, Joe, Kay. Front: Amelia and Helen.

with the work: stooking, making hay with a wooden buck, and all the rest of the farm chores. Some years a hired man helped with the field work. The younger girls herded cattle on the roadside, when the pasture was grazed off.

In the late thirties they bought a 1938 Ford car. Anne did most of the driving. Later they bought a John Deere tractor and machinery to go with it. They farmed more land, raised cattle, pigs, turkeys, ducks, geese and chickens. When their son Joe was old enough he worked in the fields.

In 1967 Anthony and Josie retired to Holden, buying a house from Mike Pastuzyk. Anthony's stay in town was not very long, as in 1968 he suffered a heart attack. Josie continues to reside in her home and spends her time working in her vegetable and flower gardens, as well as reading. She has twenty-six grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

Mary married John Bilyk. (see their story)

Anne married Lloyd Bilyk, and they live in Vegreville. They have two boys.

Katie married Walter Slemko and they live in Edmonton. They have two boys and a girl.

Helen married William Stecyk and they lived in Holden. (see story)

Frances married Peter Komarnisky and they live

on a farm eight miles southeast of Holden. They have five children, four girls and one boy.

Joe married Jean Gizoski and they live on the home place. They have two children, a boy and a girl.

Amelia married Harold Hall. Harold passed away in 1967. She lives in California. They had two children, a boy and a girl.

Eileen married Walter Komarnisky and they live south of Holden. They have three children, two boys and a girl.

Mielimaka, Peter and Anne

by Peter Mielimaka

I was born in 1914 at Hadynkowce, Poland. My dad's name was John and mother's name Mary. I came from a family of twelve. I had one brother Peter, who passed away before I was born and I was named after him. I have two sisters in Poland, Caroline and Katherine, four half sisters in Alberta, two in Holden, Annie and Josephine Mielimaka, one in Westlock, Maggie Tymkow, a sister in St. Michael, Mary Semaniuk, who passed on a couple of years ago, and one halfsister in Russia.

In 1930 at the age of 16, I left my native land and my mother, in search of work. I, like many of the young folks of Europe immigrated to Canada. I ar-



Josie Mielimaka with her grandchildren. Standing, Back Row: Garry Komarnisky, Ron Bilyk, Greg Mielimaka, Allan Bilyk, Robert Stecyk, Kathy Kawalilak. Standing, 2nd Row: Evelyn Kropielnicki, Debbie Mielimaka, Wade Komarnisky, Ernie Bilyk, Kevin Komarnisky, Janis Sloan, Joan Cyca. Sitting, Back Row: Tina Komarnisky, Kenneth Stecyk, Allan Slemko, Grandmother Josie Mielimaka, David Bilyk, Anthony Slemko, Carol Flynn. Sitting Front: Valarie Golka, Lavine Komarnisky, Joe Bilyk. Inset Upper Left: Brenda Komarnisky. Inset Lower Left: Lance Hall, Upper Right: Wendy Komarnisky. Lower Right: Lori Hall.



Anne and Peter Mielimaka, 1944.

rived at Holden in 1930 and came to the farm of Tony and Josephine Mielimaka. I stayed with them for a few years helping with farming and attending Vermillion Valley school to learn the English language.

During the summer I worked for Art Story, and another year for John Howrish. In 1939 I decided I should try to farm on my own, so I rented a quarter of land from Peter Kozack near Haight and I farmed there for three years. This is when I met my wife, Anne Zuzak. After I quit farming I worked on the gas line for awhile. In 1943 I decided to go and work in a coal mine near East Coulee.

In 1944 I married Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moses Zuzak. We went back to Leheigh where I continued working in the mine until 1946 when Anne's dad got sick. We moved to the farm to help with the spring work. In 1947 we bought some land, N.W.¼-18-49-15 from Ron Robinson and moved there in spring of 1947. The next year we rented another quarter of land from Bertha Sanderson and later we bought it from her. We farmed with horses and later bought a small tractor and better machinery. For a few years we had no car, so our means of transportation was horses and a wagon in the summer, and horses and a sleigh in the winter, or we walked, as we only lived 1½ miles from town. The first year we farmed we had it rough. It was a dry year and on July 2 our crop was hailed out. The hailstones were like golf balls, breaking the windows in the house, in the barn, and killing half of our young chickens. We raised cattle, pigs, chickens,



Peter and Anne Mielimaka on their 25th Anniversary with their attendants.

geese, turkeys and ducks for our produce. Anne also worked for Zane and Helen Bilyk for seven years in their store.

Because of my allergy, I had to quit farming. In 1975 we rented the land to Walter and Margaret Pobran but we remained on the farm. In 1978 we sold our land to Braum and Anneka Van der Torre who are living there now. We moved into our new home which is situated where the old feed mill once stood in Holden.

This year we took a trip through California and we enjoyed it very much. We both enjoy our home. I am the choir master in our R. C. Church, also on Liturgy for the Parish sub-council, and on a committee for senior citizens. During the summer I keep busy working in the garden at home and at Anne's mother's place. Anne is always busy either going to a meeting, or a bingo, or catering. She belongs to O.O.R.P.. At present she is Chaplain to the C.W.L., for which she is treasurer. She is co-ordinator of religious education on the parish sub-council, and teaches religion at the school once a week. She also finds time for her many hobbies. From our retirement we can reflect back over the years. There were disappointments, which paled into insignificance when weighed against the many happy times we have enjoyed in the companionship of our many good friends, neighbors and relatives. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in 1969 and have many happy memories of that day.

Mielimaka, Stanley Family

Stanley and his wife Annie were both born in Austria. In 1920 Stanley came to Canada, to a small mining village of Bienfait, Saskatchewan. He saw there was a prospect to settle down and raise a family, so he went back to Austria and asked the hand of



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mielimaka.

marriage of Annie Kopak. In the fall of 1921 he came back to Canada and started work in the coal mine at Bienfait.

He got a suitable house and sent for Annie to come to Canada. Two weeks later, they were married at Bienfait. A year later a son, Ludwig, was born. Three years later, a daughter, Josephine (Mrs. Peter Friend) was born.

In 1926 Stanley and Annie, with their two small children, decided to move to Alberta to a small village of Holden. There they bought a quarter section of land, built a little home and farmed until 1948 when son Ludwig took over the family farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Mielimaka lived with their son Ludwig and his wife Olga until 1954 when they moved to Holden where they retired. In 1960 Stanley passed away. Mrs. Mielimaka still lives in her home and takes great pride in her home and garden.

Ludwig married Olga Zuzak in 1949 and a year later, a daughter, Joyce, was born. Ludwig and his wife left the family farm in 1979 and moved to Holden where Ludwig is employed at Jack's Esso Service and Olga at the Holden School.

Joyce, graduated from Holden School and found employment in an Edmonton bank. She married Robert Wilkinson in 1968. They lived in Edmonton and Beaumont until 1979 when they, with their three daughters, moved to the homestead where their grandparents and their parents had lived. This farm has been in the family for fifty-four years. Robert is



Olga and Lud Mielimaka.

employed at North-West Signs in Edmonton and Joyce is employed at TransAlta Utilities in Holden as a secretary. Their three girls attend Holden School. They all love the farm and take great pride in keeping it up and raising horses, cattle, etc.



Robert and Joyce Wilkinson with Laura, Brenda and Sandra.

Miller, August by Hester (Miller) Volkman

My father, August Miller, was born in Neudorf, South Russia, in 1871 and went to the United States when he was about nineteen years old.

My mother, Magdalena (nee Gienger), was also born in Neudorf, South Russia and she along with her parents and sisters and brothers, also came to the United States when she was about sixteen years old.

Magdalena Gienger was united in marriage to Johann Eberhart, in 1894. After a few months, her husband was accidently shot and passed away. Then in 1895 she married my father, August Miller.

One son, John Eberhart, was born to the first marriage. The second marriage to August Miller was blessed with nine children, namely: Christina (Mrs. Ed Gienger), Albert, Elizabeth (Mrs. J. A. Giebelhaus), Dorothy (Mrs. Fred Kaiser), Gustav, Ernest, Hester (Mrs. Kurt Volkman), Lydia (Mrs. Julius Bauer) and Martha (Mrs. Sig Anderson). All have passed away to this date, except Elizabeth, Hester (myself) and Martha.

My parents found it hard to make a living where they had started farming, near St. Francis, Kansas,

because of constant crop failures. My mother's brother, Adam Gienger, who had previously come to Canada and was farming in the Vegreville district, encouraged my parents to come up here. So in the spring of the year about 1911, they loaded some machinery and horses into railway cars and shipped them to Canada. My dad and a couple of the boys came via rail with the horses etc. My mother, with the children and a nephew, Fred Raile, also came to Canada by train. I'm sure mother had her hands full looking after us. None of us had ever travelled outside the area where we lived, before. We arrived safely at my uncle Adam Gienger's farm and stayed for a few weeks until my dad found a farm to rent. The first farm we rented was the old Blum place, and we children had to walk over two miles to Adams school. Then we rented a farm which we called the Kjosness place. I believe this was where the first post office was set up in the area and called "The Martin's Post Office." Later on, when my dad wanted to buy a farm of his own, he contacted a man by the name of Mr. Winsness, who had a quarter section of raw land for sale, just one and a half miles south of the Kjosness farm. Dad had to start from scratch, building a



The August Miller family — 1918. Back Row: Gustav, Dorothy, Albert, Elizabeth, Christina, (centre) Hester. Front Row: John and Elizabeth Eberhart, Lydia, Magdalena, Martha and August.



Adam and Magdalena Gienger, Magdalena and August Miller.

house, barn, etc. He was a good farmer and I can say that I really never saw him discouraged even when the going was hard. Needless to say, we always had about twenty horses in those days, as the teams had to be changed because it was too hard for one team to work all day. Dad always took good care of his horses. He was the first farmer in the area to own a purebred stallion. It was a percheron by the name of John Mac III. He also had bought a purebred mare (Gertrude). I would like to also mention here that we had a pony among the horses we brought from Kansas and you can still find an offspring of the fourth generation of hers on the farm of Ezra Eberhart to this day. We also had hogs, cattle, chickens and always milked cows and shipped cream. To keep the cream cool so it wouldn't turn sour, my dad dug a hole eight feet deep and about four feet square, which he froze solid with ice in the winter time, so we had ice all summer long. Mother always churned butter so our butter and anything else that had to be kept cool went into the ice cellar, as we called it.

My dad and mother were charter members of the Evangelical Church and were active in getting the church started. Pastors were always welcome in our home and I am always thankful for that. Our parents always had enough food on the table for their family, but most of all I am thankful for the Christian heritage they left for us.

I, Hester, married Kurt Volkman in 1929, and farmed in the New Sarepta area until we retired to the village of New Sarepta in 1970. We have four children: Clarence, married Lorraine Diemert, and they have five children; Florence, married Leroy Myers, and they have four children; Harvey, and his wife Marjorie (Schubert) have four children; Gordon, is single and works for Campus Crusade for Christ.

Kurt, my husband, passed away in 1975. I live in a mobile home on the farm of our son, Clarence, where I am enjoying my retirement.

Miller, Karl and Karoline

Mr. Karl J. Miller and his wife Karoline arrived in the Holden district from Germany in 1927, along with their two children, Hattie aged 5 and Harvey aged 2.

They lived in a little log house northeast of Holden for about eight years. During this time four children were born to them, Hedy in 1930, Hannah in 1932, Elias in 1934 and Lydia in 1936. Leaving this farm in 1937, they moved and lived south of Holden for about four years, then moved to Bruce and farmed there.



Karl and Karoline and their children Hattie, Harvey, Hedy, Hannah, Al and Lydia.

In 1943 they left Alberta and moved to Osoyoos, B.C. where they lived for a number of years. They had a lovely orchard while they lived there. Mrs. Karoline Miller passed away in 1953. Two years later Mr. Karl Miller married Miss Lydia Walz, also from Germany. They moved to Chilliwack where Mr. Miller was a merchant and owned and operated a store called Philadelphia Imports. They are now retired and live in Chilliwack, B.C., and at the time of this writing Mr. Miller was 82 years old.



Harvey Miller sawing wood in 1932.

The oldest daughter, Hattie, married David J. Gibson of Holden in 1942. They moved to Wainwright where David was an accountant and insurance agent until his passing in 1966. David and Hattie have four children, David Jr. living in Edmonton, Faith and her husband Jerry Luebke live near Fargo, North Dakota, Tom living in Wainwright, and Dan and his wife Mary who are missionaries in the Middle East.

Harvey Miller married Erna Leischner formerly of Vegreville and they are now living in Kelowna, B.C. They have three children, Albert, Marjorie and Beverly.

Hedy Miller married Ken MacTavish at Osoyoos and they are living in Tofield, Alberta. They have three boys, Ronald, Daniel and Duane.

Hannah Miller married Reuben Schmunk at Osoyoos, B.C. They are in the ministry and are now in Kamloops, ministers in the Pentecostal church there. They have two children, Linda and Eugene.

Elias (now called Al) is also living in Kamloops with his wife Wilma. They have two boys, also living in B.C.

Lydia Miller married Claud Gagnon from Montreal. They lived in Vancouver for a while and now are in Quebec where they are in the ministry. They have two children, Lincoln and Robin Lee.

Miskey, George and Jenny

In 1913, four young men aged 18 and 19 left their village of Chornokinchi in Western Ukraine, went to Hamburg, Germany, and after a two week wait set sail on a freight ship for Canada. Several weeks later

after a rough crossing they landed in Halifax and eventually arrived in Calgary in time for Easter. Having never been outside their own village before, they were lonely and confused but they envisioned a bright future for themselves. They were Mike Hrabec, John Kuzyk, Panko Zalesky and George Miskey.

George was the youngest son of Petro and Evdokia (Sawchuk) Miskey. He was five years old when his mother died and he and his four brothers and sisters were orphaned. At 18 he saw his future as very limited at home, so with his father's blessing he struck out for new horizons. Alone and in a strange new country he was determined to make a good life of his own, free of the hardships and limitations left behind.

For a year he worked in the Brooks, Coronation area on irrigation construction as well as for several farmers and contractors. He also worked on railroad and road construction. In 1915 he moved north and spent the winter with a cousin in a log cabin, helping cut and haul timber from 15 miles away in order to help the cousin build a larger home. In spring he moved on to the Holden area where he worked for about a year for Mr. Arne Grosland on his farm. He then decided to buy a farm 2½ miles north of Grosland's, who gave him a helping hand in beginning his first farm venture. John and Dmetro Hrabec, cousins of George Miskey had already settled in the Haight area. George decided to buy a farm next to Dmetro Hrabec's. The farm (NW 16-50-16) was two miles west and six miles north of Holden; he later bought another quarter mile south of the home place for \$15 an acre. In time he brushed, cleared and broke by hand and horse 240 acres of productive land. By 1920 he cleared some land, bought a house and moved it onto his farm. He had in his possession four horses, two cows and a lot of determination. Years on the farm were not always kind but he survived harsh winters, seasons of premature frost, drought or hail.

In 1921 George married Jenny, daughter of Michael and Anna (Stetsko) Lucas, who was born in 1903 and raised in the Haight — Borschiw area. They continued to farm until 1947 at which time they sold their farm and went into the implement business in Mundare, along with their son Harry and son-in-law Walter Trohimchuk. Devout Ukrainian Catholics they were very active in church and community at Borschiw, and later at Mundare, participating in choir, drama and various organizations.

Four children were born to George and Jenny: Harry, Anne, John (deceased 1947) and Peter. They all attended Holmdene elementary school and Holden high school.

Harry, graduated from Holden high, went on to



George and Jenny Miskey on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Standing: Peter, Anne and Harry.

Alberta College, worked in Edmonton and Toronto before coming to Mundare. He married May Ozubko in 1949 and in 1955 moved to Edmonton where he operated Western Pharmacy with his brother Peter. Their children are Larry, Robert, Neil and Shirley (Paterson).

Anne married Walter Trohimchuk in 1943 and they farmed in the Kopernick area until 1947 before moving to Mundare. In 1960 they moved to Edmonton, became partners in and operated the Coral Bowl. Walter (deceased in 1974) and Anne had four children; Diane (Kirkland), Donald, Christopher and Terry as well as five grandchildren.

Peter, after high school in Holden and Mundare then graduated from U. of A. with a B.Sc. in Pharmacy in 1955. He married Lee (Lazowski) that same year. They live in Edmonton where they presently operate Peters Pharmacy. They have three children: David, Audrey (McKenzie) and Kathy and two grandchildren.

Presently George and Jenny, who recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary, reside in the Fr. Krezanowski Manor in Mundare. They count their blessings and thank God for them. They look forward to visits from their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and are enjoying their family and friends.



Lawrence Mohs, son of Frank Mohs, with cup won by Holden Ball team about 1914.

Mohs, Frank (1886-1958) and Susie (1890-) and Family

Frank Henry Stephen Mohs emigrated from Sauk Centre, Minnesota with his father and two brothers in 1902. His father bought land south of Holden, then soon returned to the U.S. The sons remained to take up homesteading. Frank acquired his land title on SW¼ 2-49-16 in 1905.

About 1909 Frank moved into Holden when he married Susie Mumford. He then bought and operated a fruit, confectionery and soda fountain business in a building next to Osborne's General Store. Frank also did some barbering in the pool hall. He was very active in sports — hockey and baseball. Susie and Frank had seven children, two of whom died in infancy — Ralph and Gerald. The others were Lawrence, Cecil, Harold, Norma and Irene. The children all received their education at Vermillion Valley and Holden Schools. Susie worked in the confectionery until they sold the business, and moved to a house near "the top of the hill". She and her mother, Sarah Mumford, were very active in the United Church Ladies' Aid, doing their part with fancy work, sewing and church dinners. Frank had taken employment in Black's General Store. In 1926 he and Susie and family returned to the farm to live.

He also sold Watkins' products and made to measure suits.

In 1937 the family moved to Edmonton where Frank was employed by Canadian Aircraft during the war and later as a cabinet maker for Muttart's Lumber Co. He and Susie bought a home in Edmonton in 1949 and Frank retired in 1951. After his death in 1958, Susie remained in her home until 1969 when she sold it and moved to a seniors' lodge. She is at present at the Allen Gray Auxiliary Hospital where she has been for seven years.

Lawrence Mohs (1910-1961). As a wee lad he was a mascot for the Holden baseball team. When sixteen he began a career in banking with the Royal Bank in Holden, eventually became an accountant at the main branch in Edmonton until 1937. He then went to Waterways, Alberta. He was employed by Northern Transportation at Fort Smith. He married Vera Becker in 1943. Five years later they adopted three children: Virginia, Brenda (deceased) and Janet. In 1956 Lawrence was made traffic manager for N.T. Co. where he remained till his death in 1961.

Cecil (1912-) involved in sports, was catcher for the Holden Baseball team. Each player was sponsored by a Holden business. Cecil being a rotund young fellow was sponsored by Boyd's Meat Market.

Mr. Boyd advertised with an appliqué of a “porky” on the back of Cecil’s uniform. This was a tribute to Cecil’s good nature. He also played hockey and coached girls’ softball.

When he left Holden he worked as a cook and panned for gold. Early in W.W.II he joined the R.C.A.F., became a bombardier and attained rank of Flight Lieutenant. In 1945 he married Mildred Boynton of Toronto and worked as a linotype operator until he retired in 1977. They had a daughter Donna and an adopted son Stephen. They suffered deeply the drowning of their daughter at the age of 19 in 1965. They live in Scarborough.

Harold (1914-1981) was mischievous when young, played hockey and baseball as he grew up. He was at Waterways from 1937 to 1940. Here he married Nancy Pearson and they moved to Penticton, B.C. He acquired a foundry, and lost a hand in a sawmill where he worked when business was slack. He had an orchard, but later moved to Pemberton and was a school janitor. He retired to Sardis, B.C. in 1970.

Norma (1920-), after enjoying childhood on the farm she moved with her family to Edmonton where she completed school and later a course in beauty culture. In 1945 she met and married Staff Sgt. Charles Beeken, a radio operator with U.S.A.A.F. While living at Long Beach, California, they had two sons Don and Richard. Five years after Chuck completed training in television as a service technician, they moved back to Edmonton. He worked as a service manager for R.C.A. and later at N.A.I.T. as an instructor. He retired in 1981.

Irene (1922-) competed in footraces and played on Vermillion Valley softball team. After completing a secretarial course she took a position with the salt mines at Waterways, Alberta. During the war she worked for the U.S. Air Force. She met and married Staff Sgt. Robert Morris in 1944. After living at Sackets Harbor and Minneapolis they came to Edmonton. Bob worked with Imperial Oil, and Irene as a secretary. They had three children David, and twins Lynne and Judith. Irene and Bob presently reside in Calgary.

Moore, W. F. by Doris Story

In 1909, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Moore immigrated to Canada from England with four children, Frank, Mary, Walter and Nettie. Pearl and I (Doris) were born in Canada.

Dad worked around Edmonton until he went to Holden around 1913 where he worked for John Wohl. Then when the war broke out in 1914, he moved his family to Edmonton and enlisted in the army. He was

in the 149th and 138th Battalions. He convalesced in Brett hospital in Banff for a time, then in 1920, we moved to Holden, living one mile south until our house was built on our farm.

We all left home and when mother died in 1934, Dad left the farm and lived in Vancouver and Calgary where he died in 1946.

Frank married Elva Stott, a nurse from Saskatchewan, and lived on the West Coast. They had two children, Lois Powell and Roy who died in 1974. Frank died in 1981.

Mary married Frank Wolfe from Holden in the Holden United Church in 1922. They had two children, Donald who lives in Vancouver and Audrey Morgan who lives in Victoria, where Mary now resides. Frank died in 1973.

Walter and Mae reside in Vancouver. They have a son and a daughter.

Nellie went to Vancouver where she married Jim Smyth. They had two sons. Nellie died in 1951.

Pearl went to normal school in Edmonton and taught for a few years before going to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario where she still resides.

Morland, Jens and Elisa by Muriel Hill and Judy Woyewitka

Jens Morland was born in Norway in 1851, the son of Jens Jorgan and Elsie Katherina (Olsdatter) Knutson. He left behind five brothers and sisters in Norway and came to Norman County, Minnesota with two other brothers known as “George Johnson” and “John Jensen”, all of whom changed their last names when they came to America. One sister, Elsie Marie, also immigrated and married Eldwig Clausen and came to Jenner, Alberta.

Elisa (Dalby), Jen’s wife, like Jens, came to



Morland family. Back Row: Clara (Kjelland), Martin, Jens, Emma (Field). Front Row: Jens (father), Carl, Anton, and Elisa (mother).

America and left her family in Norway. She came to Rice County, Minnesota with five brothers, all of whom settled in Minnesota. Her parents came to America later to be with their children.

It was in Minnesota that Jens and Elisa met and were married. From this union came two daughters and four sons. The first born was Clara who died at two years of age, then a son, Jens, followed by Clara, Martin, Emma, Carl and Anton.

It was, perhaps, the need for more land which spurred them to immigrate to Canada where there seemed to be a brighter future for their family. At any rate, they decided to leave family and friends behind in Twin Valley, Minnesota and came to Bruce, Alberta. Jens, in 1916, set out by train to farm on NW 6-50-14 seven and one-half miles directly north of Bruce. During the first years Jens built a machine shed and a granary; these buildings still remain on the farm. After preparing the homestead he brought his family to Canada.

The oldest son, Jens, decided to marry and remain in South Dakota. The rest of the family came with Jens and Elisa to Canada; Clara Helmer, Martin, Emma Fjeld (Field), Carl and Anton. Their route took them through Emerson and Winnipeg, directly to Bruce by train. They remained on the homestead until their passing. Jens died in 1928, with their son Carl taking over farming operations. Elisa remained on the homeplace with her son until her passing in 1947. Five of the children stayed in the Bruce-Viking area. Clara Helmer married Peter Kjelland and farmed northeast of Viking with her family. Martin and his wife Olga (Swenson), lived one mile directly west of the homeplace. Anton and his wife Clara (Nordstrom) farmed south of the homeplace. Emma and her husband Henry Field and family farmed directly north and west of the homeplace.

Carl remained a bachelor farming on the homestead until his passing in 1962. After Carl's death, the homestead remained in the Morland family with a grandson of Jens and Elisa, Selmer Field, who still farms the land.

Motkowski, Edward

Edward, the son of Joseph and Maria Motkowski, was born in 1912 in Kopernick, Alberta. He remembers Victoria Wakowich, Mary Little and the McDonald sisters as teachers at the original Polska School where he received his education. He remembers also the first Polska Church with just a cross to mark it as a place of worship. When the new church, complete with steeple was finished, he served as altar boy.

In 1928 he decided to try his luck in the U.S.A.



Edward and Kay Motkoski.

and left for Portland, Oregon where he worked at various jobs.

In 1933 he married Katherine Kohut and they set up a home in Edmonton. They have a family of two. Again Ed worked at a variety of jobs. Ed and Kay are now retired and living in Edmonton. Their son Norman and his wife Sylvia have three children. Daughter Caroline is married to Peter Harish and they have two girls.

Motkowski, John

John, son of Joseph and Maria, was born in 1909 at Kopernick, Alberta. He married Anna Komarnisky in 1931. They lived for a short time on the original homestead then rented several places and moved to Edmonton just before World War II.

Before the war ended they were back to the home place south of Holden. In the intervening years the fine house his grandfather had built had been burned. They were a healthy energetic family and by the 60's the farmstead was graced by a handsome new house and barn and a good set of other buildings. When all the children were gone, John and Annie began to think of retirement.

Their first try was Kelowna, where they stayed for over a year. Finding the lush growth brought out allergies for Annie, they built another beautiful home in Daysland. However this wasn't "home", so they bought a house in Holden. They were happy, and



John Motkoski family on 50th Anniversary 1981. Back Row: Glen Kozdrowski, Ralph Liedl, Gwen Lisowski, Laura Motkoski, Joyce Liedl, Darlene Motkoski. Centre Row: Rodney Motkoski, Stanley Motkoski, Vicki Routledge, Rose Kozdrowski, Ron Motkoski. Front Row: Greg Motkoski, Kirk Routledge, Annie and John Motkoski, Cory, Dana and Shannon Motkoski, Chrissie More. Front Row: Christopher Routledge, Michael Lisowski, Tara More, and Trevor Motkoski.

settled into a satisfying church and social life, however duty called them to another move. A son bought a ranch in Armstrong, B.C. and needed someone to look after it until he could move there. John and Annie presently live there. They have six children.

Rose attended school at Polska. She then worked at Kelowna, where she married Nick Kozdrowski. Their children are Gwen, now married to Lornce Lisowski and have three sons, including a set of twins. Christine, now married to Bert More, has one child. Glenn is single.

Stanley, born in 1935, married Angeline Fundytus. He attended school in Polska and left home at an early age. He was involved in a construction business at Fort McMurray. After he sold his interest, he was engaged in other businesses. After a logging truck accident the family moved to B.C. They now reside at Armstrong, B.C. where they own a rock shop. Their children are Shannon, Corinne, Darlene and Laura.

Jeanne attended school in Polska and then married Phil Liedl. They lived in Viking, Holden, Donald, Kelowna and Whitecourt where Phil worked in construction. They have five children, Jeff, Ralph, Joyce, Jimmy and Robin, and one grandchild.

Ronald born in 1945, married Francis Skyes. He attended school at Polska and Holden. He worked at Fort McMurray in the cement and gravel business, and later moved to Edson. Their children are Dana, Rodney, Gregory and Trevor. They now live on a ranch at Armstrong, B.C.

Victoria, born in 1947, attended school at Holden. She then worked at the switchboard for A.G.T. at Holden. She married Jerry Routledge and they presently live in Kelowna. They have two children, Kirk and Christopher.

Motkowski, Joseph and Maria

Joseph was born in 1860 in Woyla Gnoitcha, Krackowic, Republic of Poland, (Hlanitza).

His father died when Joseph was six years old. When he was nine he was sent to live with some priests. He stayed with them until he was fourteen, learning two trades, carpentry and blacksmithing.

In 1891 he married Maria Wolanski. They came to Canada in 1902 with five children, Mike, Annie, Kay, Rose and Mary. John and Edward were born later. Joseph claimed a homestead southeast of Holden that year but worked for a time in Edmonton. He stayed with the Mike Krupa family in the Whitemud district while he was working on the Low Level bridge which was being built at the time. He also worked on the C.P.R. railroad near Banff, Alberta.

In 1903 he settled on the homestead, built the typical shack, eventually he built what was a large house for that time, six rooms, two storeys and a verandah on two sides. Joseph had one of the first



Joseph and Maria Motkowski in late 1930's.

cars in the area, a 1914 Ford with coal oil lights. He drove to Holden to meet the train on which the priest came to say Mass. One of the rooms in the Motkowski house had an altar and a large statue of the Virgin Mary. Mass was sometimes held at his home. Later when a church was built the Sisters stayed with the Motkowskis while they taught catechism during the summer. Joseph was also involved in the building of the church, both the first log structure and the present Polska Church, on which he worked with his eldest son, Mike. He was hired to build the first one; the pay was fifty cents a day. He also built the two side altars in the new church and the family donated the chandelier.

Joseph remembered well the trades he had learned in the old country, combined with his ingenuity he built many things, such as sleighs, wagon boxes, a rug loom and a mattress making machine. When he was living in Edmonton during the late depression years, he continued to make mattresses for people who brought their discarded clothing. He also made a flour mill with grist stones fashioned from local material.

Although he took pride in the machines he made, he also had a yen for "modern" machinery. Some of the interesting items he owned were, a hand fed Moody Threshing Machine, from which the straw also had to be hauled away. This machine had a Moody one cylinder engine for power, it was mounted on a separate wagon. Later he owned a Racine Thresher. Tractors he owned were a Mogul and a 2 cylinder Titan.

During the early depression years, his own family grown up, this courageous man with his wife, left his relatively settled farm, headed north to Colinton, Alberta, to once again homestead. This time he set-



Children on rail: Annie and Frank Pawluk. Mary (Motkowski) McKee, Paul Pawluk, Rosie (Motkowski) Silver, Catherine (Motkowski) Pawluk, Anton Sroka, John Motkowski, Sam Sroka, Ed Motkowski, Joseph Motkowski.

tled in the heavy northern Alberta bush, to bring up two children, children left orphans by the death of his daughter Catherine and her husband Paul Pawluk. He left that farm only when his grandchild, Annie, married and her husband took over the farm.

Joseph and Maria spent their last years together in Edmonton. Maria was a midwife and came to the help of women wherever she lived. She passed away in 1939. After the death of his wife Joseph lived for varying lengths of time with his children, until his death in 1955. Maria and Joseph lie in the cemetery behind the church which he helped to build and where they both worshipped.

Mike married Jessie Kolmatiski in 1917 (see story elsewhere).

Rose married John Silver from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Both are now deceased. They had two children: Irene married to Bob Whittington, has six children. She lives in Lincoln City, Oregon. Raymond married to Virginia has four children.

Annie married Kost Chrystian (see story elsewhere).

Catherine married Paul Pawluk (see story elsewhere).

Mary, born in Krackowic, Poland, came to Canada with her parents, and worked occasionally as a housekeeper. She married Alex Gawarluk and they lived in Edmonton. She is now married to Cecille McKee and they live in Calgary. Cecille was a harness maker at one time.

John married Anna Komarnisky in 1931 (see story elsewhere).

Edward married Katherine Kohut (see story elsewhere in the book).

Motkowski, Mike and Jessie

Mike, the eldest child of Joseph and Maria, was born in Krackowic, Poland, in 1895. He came to Canada with his parents and lived with them, helping on the homestead on which they had settled. This was west of the C.P.R. quarter that later became his home.

In 1917 he was united in marriage with Jessie Kolmatiski. To this union nine children were born. Through hard work and perseverance Mike and Jessie acquired enough land to start out each of their sons with a half section of land, with the exception of the youngest, who moved with them to Chilliwack, B.C. in the early 1950's.

The move to B.C. was semi-retirement. Mike and Jessie farmed a dairy and poultry acreage for several years while the youngest attended school. When Jessie's health failed, they moved back to the farm near Holden for a time, and later to a small house in Holden. Having developed a taste for the



Mike and Jessie Motkowski — 1951.

milder British Columbia climate they moved again, this time to Kelowna, B.C. where Mike bought and ran a rooming house until Jessie's death in 1957.

In 1959 Mike and Catherine Zuk were married in Kelowna. They lived in a house a few blocks from the rooming house, until their retirement in 1980, when they decided to move to a rest home. Catherine passed away a few weeks later. Both Jessie and Catherine lie in a cemetery overlooking this peaceful Okanagan city. Mike continues to reside at Sutherland Hills Rest Home, content and well at 87.

Mike and Jessie's children all attended Polska

School except Johnny, who finished his schooling at Chilliwack, B.C.

Peter was born in 1918. He started school in the two room school across from the Polska Church. After that school was destroyed by fire, he attended the new school. He attended catechism at the Polska Church. He recollects boys collecting crow and magpie eggs, and the fact that telephone insulators made excellent targets for slingshot practice. Peter spent four years, nine months in the army during World War II. Several months after his discharge in 1946, he married Annie Podlasecki. They settled on a half section near Bruce where they still farm. Peter and Annie both take an active part in community and church affairs and have held offices in many of them. In 1978 the family was honored to receive The Alberta Farm Family Award. Peter is presently taking steps toward a retirement in British Columbia.

Eight children were born to this union, all of whom attended Bruce and Holden School. Steven was born in 1947. In 1975 he married Shirley l'Hirondelle, and they have three children, Dana, Craig and Chad. Steven is presently self employed and lives in Edmonton. Margaret graduated from N.A.I.T. as Medical Records Librarian. She is married to Ernest Dorosh and they live on an acreage near St. Albert. They have one daughter, Melisa. Nicholas



The Peter Motkoski family. Mrs. Larry Shaven, M.L.A. Larry Shaven, Mrs. Steinhaur, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Steinhaur, Peter Motkoski, Gordon, Karen, Anne Motkoski, Nick, Ernie and Margaret Dorosh, Dorothy and Ken, R.C.M.P., official of Edmonton Exhibition Board, Roxanne.

is a heavy duty mechanic in Edmonton. He is married to Rhona Byrne. Dorothy took a flower arranging course at Victoria Composite High in Edmonton and Early Childhood Services in Lakeland College at Vermilion, Alberta. She is presently doing volunteer work as a Frontier Apostle in Prince George, B.C. Karen, a twin, was born in 1961. She studied Dramatic Arts at Mount Royal College in Calgary, and was involved with Little Theatre in Holden during her high school years. She married Michael Dolson in 1981. Both are presently employed in Calgary. Kenneth, Karen's twin, attended N.A.I.T., where he studied Architectural Engineering. He is presently working in Edmonton. Gordon, born in 1965, and Roxanne, born in 1972, are both attending Holden School.



Bill and Anne George, Kenny and Georgina.

Annie married Bill George, and they have two children. Ken is married, has two children and lives near Calgary. Georgina is a secretary in Edmonton. Bill drove industrial trucks until his retirement, and Annie does hostess work for a catering firm. They reside in Edmonton.

Paul stayed on the farm with his father and continued to farm the home place after the folks had moved to Chilliwack, B.C. In 1967 he married Olga Skulsky. They have three children: Robert, Diane and Tommy, all attending school at Holden. Linda, Paul's adopted daughter works in Edmonton having graduated from Holden High School.

Stella, worked as a hired girl for several years. She met and married Joseph Balog at Milk River, Alberta, where they farmed for eleven years. They moved to a farm in Killam, Alberta and from there to a farm near Holden. While living at Holden Stella began working in Vegreville. Stella and Joe now live in Camrose where they manage apartments and Joe was a nursing orderly at Bethany. Joe is now retired, while Stella continues to work at Bethany where she has worked for fifteen years.

They have nine children. Elaine, Clifford, Rosemary and Beverly graduated from Holden School, while Brian, Mark, Yvonne and Rhonda graduated from Camrose Composite High School.

Delaine, injured in a farm accident, is now in a home in Red Deer, Alberta. Elaine married Dwayne Christianson of Holden. They live in Edmonton and have two children, Deborah and Roberta. Clifford is working with Safeway in Camrose, Alberta. Rosemary studied business administration at N.A.I.T. and is in Camrose. Beverly worked in a bank in Camrose. She married Wayne Winkleman and they live in Saskatchewan. They have three children, Edward, Jennifer and Karen. Brian, took electronics at N.A.I.T. and is presently with N.C.R. an electronics firm in Edmonton. He married Heather Ball and has one child, Michael. Mark, has four years of U. of A., will be going back for doctorate degree. Yvonne, married Edward Henry, and she worked for the compensation board. They have two children, Chandra and Christine. Rhonda, is taking a secretarial course and is living at home with her parents in Camrose.

Mike farmed with his father for a time. He lived with Paul on the home place for awhile after his dad moved to B.C., but farmed his own land south of the home place. Later he sold his land and bought a farm near Daysland where he still lives. Mike also did some trucking in Holden and Daysland.



Joe R. Motkoski family. Back Row: David and Lynne Motkoski, Bob Strilchuk, Anne and Joe R. Motkoski. Front: Barb Strilchuk holding Bryce.

Joseph, was born in 1925. Joe served as altar boy for many years at St. John the Baptist Church at Polska. Joe's industriousness had an early start. While attending school he made a wagon of scrap lumber, with wheels ordered from Eaton's, and ten cents worth of nails. With this he hauled drinking water to school everyday in an eight gallon cream can, a distance of a mile for the grand sum of \$2.00 a month. He worked on the farm with his father and began doing carpenter work around the time his father left for B.C. Joe has helped build many of the barns in the area as well as other farm buildings. He was married in 1952 to Anne Panasuik from Evansburg, Alberta and settled on the S.W. 25-47-16, where they are still living. Anne and Joe are a popular couple, participating in many social events and entertaining many visitors. They have two children, both graduated from Holden High School.



Mrs. Peter Motkoski and Mary Ford.



David and Barbara Motkoski — 1950.

David, graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. in 1977. He married Lynn Woodward in 1978, and is presently in insurance. They live in Edmonton. Barbara, born in 1957, graduated from N.A.I.T. as a dental assistant. She married Bob Strilchuk in 1978 and they live in Westlock, Alberta. They have two children, Bryce and Jacqueline.

Mary, was with Women's Division of the Air Force in World War II. She completed high school in Vancouver, B.C., and took a nursing aide course. She married Bill Ford, and they live at Smith Falls, Ontario. They have two children, Douglas and Ronald, both graduates of Kingston University.

Rose worked in Chilliwack, Edmonton and Kelowna. Her first marriage was to Mike Antifaoff. They had three children, Audrey, now married and lives in Ontario, and Michael and Wayne. Rose is now married to Rodger Stanley, they have two children, Venita and James. They live in North Surrey, B.C.

John, attended school in Polska and Chilliwack, B.C., was altar boy in Polska Church. He worked in many places across the prairie provinces. He married Faith Ross in 1958. He has worked for the city of Calgary for many years. Faith works for an oil firm in downtown Calgary. They had two children. David passed away at the age of eleven in a tragic charcoal fire accident. Patti graduated from a Calgary High School and took a secretarial arts course. She worked in Calgary and is now Mrs. Belley, living in High River, Alberta.

Mulick Family

Luka Mulick was one of a family of six, three sons and three daughters born to Harry and Warwara Mulick of Stubno, a small village about three kilometers from the city of Przemysl in the western part of the Ukraine. That part of the Ukraine was occupied by the Austrian Empire at that time. In 1903 at the age of seventeen Luka and his uncle Yakim Mulick and family started their journey to Canada. Yakim's family consisted of his wife Mary and their children Luka, Katherine, Panko and Annie. After travelling by train to Hamburg, Germany, they embarked on a large ocean liner for their destination Strathcona via Port Halifax; Strathcona is better known today as



Harry and Warwara Mulick.

South Edmonton. The ship they boarded not only had people as passengers, but also carried a cargo of oxen and cattle on the lower deck. The voyage was long and tedious with almost all aboard getting sea sick and many wishing they had never left their homeland. Nevertheless, the sighting of the Canadian shoreline was greeted with enthusiasm and anticipation. From Halifax they travelled by way of the Grand Trunk Railway to Strathcona arriving June 3, 1903. After meeting with friends from the Beaverhill Lake area just south of Mundare, they travelled by ox drawn wagon to their friends' homestead. During a brief stay there Yakim's application for a Homestead Patent for the S.W.-16-48-16-W4 received the Commissioner's approval; this homestead was eight miles southwest of Holden. They immediately ventured to their homestead and proceeded to build their home, in the meantime staying with nearby neighbors. The building materials were plentiful; with the house being built from logs, mud plastered walls, a straw thatched roof and a dirt floor; in a few days it was ready for its inhabitants.

Being too young to qualify for a patent, Luka Mulick was able to get temporary employment with the railway company building rail lines. The salary was \$.20 per hour and they had a ten hour work day. From this they paid for their board and sleeping quarters, which were tents, most of them didn't shed rain too well and were cold during the fall and winter months. During spells of bad weather they didn't make enough to meet their expenses. Having Holden as his home base, Luka Mulick worked mostly in the Lethbridge, Nanton and High River areas as well as at McBride in the Rocky Mountain Range, building snow sheds and clearing mud and snow slides off the tracks. If the slides happened to occur during the night, they would be called out of bed in any kind of weather, rain or snow to clear the tracks. It took strong young healthy men to do this type of work. Many of them would get severe cases of pneumonia. It was after several years of this ordeal that he decided

to take up farming. On January 15, 1907 his application for a homestead patent for the S.E. ¼-20-48-16-W4 received approval and he also received his certificate of naturalization. This made him a Canadian citizen and a full fledged farmer.

On June 7 of the same year his parents Harry and Warwara Mulick immigrated to Canada with four of the children. Katherine, Anna, Maria and Konstantyn, the eldest son Dmytro didn't arrive with the family as he was serving his four years in the Austrian army. He came several years later. An interesting incident happened on his trip across the ocean. The vessel had an unfortunate breakdown, so they spent several weeks floating around till they were able to get help and finally reach their destination. Luka's parents and family lived with him as there were no more homesteads available in this area. After the eldest son Dmytro arrived, they moved to Radway in 1911 and settled on homestead land there. This move resulted in many trips with teams of wagons or sleighs. The area around Radway was heavily wooded and early fall frosts were frequent, thus growing grain such as wheat was next to impossible, so it was hauled in from Holden and lumber was brought back as there were many sawmills in the district. The 190 mile round trip took several days. The river banks were steep necessitating the doubling of teams of shod horses to make the climb. The Yakim Mulick family moved to Radway in July of 1912.

Luka Mulick was left by himself in the Holden district or as it was earlier called the Vermillion Valley P.O. Many tales he would tell us about his experiences on the farm during this time. Snow fall was very heavy in winter so skis were used to travel to the nearby neighbors or wherever necessary. Ammunition was readily available as he would reload his shotgun shells himself. Hunting prairie chicken and rabbit was most common. In the summer the saddle horse was used for travel or rounding up cattle on the open prairie.



Luka Mulick.



Anna Mulick.

It was on July 27, 1915 that Luka married Anna a daughter of Onesko and Teodocia Tkaczyk of Holden. Three sons and three daughters were born to this union. Mary, Michael, Peter, Josephine, Edward and Nathalie. Peter and Edward died at infancy.

During their married life Luka and Anna encountered sad and happy moments not to mention many hardships and perseverances as most others did in those times. It's quite evident that most women on the farms worked very hard. Besides doing all their work in the house, such as baking bread, canning, doing the washing by hand, milking cows and looking after the children, they still made time to help their husbands in the field with haying and harvest. I'll never forget one incident that happened involving our mother when we were very young. This happened while she was helping dad with the haying. She was operating a hay rake with a team of horses. The hitching pole on the rake broke throwing her under the rake. The horses immediately began to run, as this went on mother was rolling under the rake. She was conscious enough to know that if she reached up with her arm and pulled the trip, the rake would dump. So she did, but at the same time one of the horses kicked her arm against a steel bar breaking it, but with God's blessing the rake went up leaving her behind, no doubt saving her life.

Anna Mulick passed away on June 19, 1945 at the age of 49, Luka continued farming, till his passing on August 20, 1964 at the age of 79.

Mary the eldest of the children attended Vermillion Valley and Holden High School and chose education as her career. She married Nick Laskoski and they have two daughters Cecilia and Monica. Their family story is told elsewhere in this book.

Josephine took her primary education at Vermillion Valley, this was a little country school three miles from home. She took her high school at Holden and at St. Joseph's School in Mundare taught by Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Josephine took her training for education at the university in Edmonton. She taught at several schools in the Holden area and is now teaching for the separate school board in Edmonton. She married Julian Wynnyk of Edmonton who is also in the teaching profession. They have two sons, Peter and Michael. Peter is in the Computer Sciences field and Michael is attending High School.

Nathalie the youngest of the family took her education at Vermillion Valley and St. Martins Separate School in Vegreville. She chose nursing as a profession. She trained and nursed at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and also took post-graduate study in thoracic and neurological surgery in London, England. Since then she has made her home



Mulick family: Michael, Ronald, Baby Melissa, Sonia, Alice, Nathalie, Mary, Nick, Monica, Cecilia, Josephine, Michael, Julian and Peter.

in Honolulu, Hawaii and presently manages her own surgical supply business for hospitals on the islands.

As for myself (Michael), I attended the Vermillion Valley country school and Holden High School. As for a career, I chose to stay on the farm and help my father with his farm operation. I married Alice Ogrodnick on the 7th of November 1950 and we raised two sons Leslie and Ronald. They both attended Holden School from grades 1 to 12. Leslie went into Electronics, graduating from Devry's Institute in Toronto and works for Xerox in the Toronto area. He married Elia Natale of Toronto, and they have two sons, Michael and Robert and a daughter Jennifer Lesley. Ronald is in Accounting, as well as farming. He married Sonia Shihinski of Holden and they have one daughter, Melissa.

Mulowka, Samion by Frank Mulowka

Samion Mulowka was a resident of the Holden area from the early 1900's to 1918. He came from the Ukraine, and was married at Holden to Catrine



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mulowka.

Wirkiyosky. They had four children, William, Stella, Frank and Josephine. He worked at the Edmonton City Dairy and later owned a Pool Hall and a Barber Shop at Holden. He also had a farm machinery agency, and did some farming in the last years of his life. One of his hobbies was music; he played a violin and had a little orchestra that played at wedding parties.

He helped build the St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, located about eight miles south of Holden: our home was about a mile north from this church.

Mumford, Suddie and Sarah

Holden was not the planned destination of Suddie and Sarah Mumford when they moved west from Harcourt, Ontario, in 1907. Suddie had been promised homestead land near Mannville, but upon arrival by rail in Vegreville was informed an error had been made by the government and the land was not to be theirs. And so the Mumfords moved to Holden where Suddie established a cartage business and built Holden House which still stands on 3rd Avenue east, one block from Main Street.

Suddie Paul was born in 1859, in Brighton, Ontario, son of John and Angeline Mumford (nee Sauve). Upon reaching the age of maturity he engaged in the lumbering business in the area of Mumford Crossing, part of his work being log-driver — a profession respected because of the dangers involved. Following his marriage in 1889 to Sarah, daughter of Alec and Eliza Wilson, his major interest

became farming. The home place at Harcourt was cut out of the bush, backed against the hills. Natural spring water was piped down to serve the home. A climb to the crest of the hills was rewarded with a feed of wild strawberries for the picking, and a magnificent view of Elephant Lake which is now part of a National Park. The area provided great fishing grounds and one of the family's more noted guests was Timothy Eaton. Each year he made the trip from Toronto, particularly, he claimed, to enjoy the frog-legs Grandma Angeline prepared so deliciously for him.

The Mumford's decision to move to Alberta was made in 1907. Their daughter, Susan, had moved out two years previously to stay with Sarah's family in Vegreville. And so, in May, 1907, Sarah, with son Clarence, daughters Tressa, Gladys, Ann, Mildred and Myrtle, boarded the Colonists' settlers railway coach and embarked on the week-long journey. The slat bench-seats, set along the sides of the coach, wouldn't compare too favorably with the foam-cushioned comfort of the trains and planes of the 1980's but the family remembers the excitement of the adventure rather than the discomfort. A large cook stove in the coach provided succulent ham dinners en route, and Sarah had brought along a large crock of "twisty" doughnuts to sustain the family. To the children, one of the most exciting moments of the trip occurred on an over-night stop at Winnipeg's Immigration Hall when they enjoyed their first sight and taste of bakery buns with icing on top.

Suddie and son Cecil experienced far fewer de-



Suddie and Sarah Mumford's first home.



Back Row: Bob Emond, Bert Taylor, Cecil Mumford, Harry Brown, Susie Mohs holding Lawrence, Sarah Mumford. Front Row: Ann Mumford, Myrtle Emond, Mildred Mumford, Gladys Mumford, Clarence Mumford beside Mumford home, (now K. Nichols').

lightful moments on their journey which endured for over two weeks. They had booked a whole railway car on a freight train and brought with them the farm's livestock, including cows "Chubb" and "Daisy", and horses "Bill" and "Deck", the furniture, and a load of maple lumber for the home they would build in the West.

After the short stay in Vegreville, Suddie, Sarah et al moved to Holden with the intention of establishing a livery barn. Finding that one existed, Suddie set up the cartage business and "Bill" and "Deck" became the horse-power in the operation. Eventually Suddie added a taxi service for rail travellers, and also acted as Mail carrier.

He transported materials from Vegreville to build the large 7-bedroom, 2-storey home, and the maple lumber brought from Ontario was utilized as flooring and finishing. Holden House served as a boarding place and, at times as an inn for travellers to the town. My Mother, Myrtle (Mumford) Emond, can recall many occasions when all seven Mumford children slept on the floor in the largest bedroom while the

House provided refuge for families from the States on their way to find homeland in Alberta.

Both Sarah and Suddie supported the local organizations. Sarah and her daughter, Susan, were instrumental in organizing the first Ladies Aid Group. Suddie was an active member of the Village Council for many years. He was interested in the local sports, and was an enthusiastic snare-drum player, never missing a July 12th parade. Music has played an important role in family life: son Cecil became a trumpeter upon enlisting in the Canadian Mounted Rifles in World War I, and Ralph, who was born in Holden, was well-known in the musical field for his talent at the piano and organ.

Suddie and Sarah retired to Edmonton in 1929. Suddie passed away in 1940, and Sarah passed away in 1955.

The Mumford family:

Susan resides in Edmonton; married Frank Mohs(D), (see Frank Mohs Story).

Myrtle married Robert Emond(D) (see Bob Emond story).

Mildred resides in Edmonton. Following completion of school she worked for Dr. Sam Farrel before moving to Edmonton where she worked for the Hudson's Bay Co. until her retirement.

Cecil(D), killed in action in France, December 2, 1915, age 22 years.

Clarence(D), served in the RCASC, World War II; joined staff of Royal Bank at age 17 and served with the bank until his retirement. Married Nell Baron; two sons, Suddie Bill in Calgary and Ted in B.C.; five grandchildren.

Ralph(D), served in RCAF World War II. Married Dorothy Becker; one daughter, Beverly, one grandchild, Lori Jane, residing in San Jose, California.

Tressa(D), married Herb Wilson(D), elevator agent in Holden; eventually retired in Lamont; one son, James in Edmonton; two daughters, Kae Shires and Grace Wilson, Edmonton; two grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Gladys(D), married R. B. "Dad" Harris(D), Imperial Oil agent; two daughters, Mary Byers in Ontario, Patricia Thomas in B.C.; seven grandchildren.

Ann(D), married Joseph H. Mair(D), telegrapher in Holden at that time; two sons, Don in Ottawa, Gordon(D), one daughter, Aileen Collins in Edmonton; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

(D) signifies Deceased.

Mychaleyko, Harry by Anna (Mychaleyko) Sunak

Harry (Hryhorij) Mychaleyko was born in Mawniw, Mostyska, Ukraine, in 1883. Maria



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mychaleyko.

Kosowych was born in Kosiw, Ukraine, in 1889. After Harry and Maria were married, they farmed in the Scona district. There were four girls and three boys in the family, Anna, Pearl, Nadia (Nora), Catherine, Michael, Alec and Johnny.

Anna, the eldest, married Michael Sunak and lives in Redwater. They have a son Arthur and a daughter, Marion, who both live in Edmonton. Their daughter is a music recorder.

As the other brothers and sisters grew up, they chose varied occupations and left home. Harry passed away in Holden, in 1942, and is buried in the South Holden Ukrainian Church Cemetery. Maria moved to Edmonton where she died in 1962.

Mydlak, John and Eva

John came to Canada in 1909 and worked in Edmonton for a time on the High Level Bridge. He then came to north of Daysland to work on a farm. He married Eva Panas in 1912 in the Kopernick log church and settled on a farm north east of Daysland in the Willow district. Eva had come to Canada in 1905.

When times were hard and it was difficult to make a living, they moved to Panas' and John worked for the C.P.R. as a section man to support his family. In 1923, they moved back to a farm in the Scandia school district, where the children went to school. In 1927 they moved again, to a farm seventeen miles north of Daysland, in the Sandstorm district, and lived there until John's death in 1945. Eva passed away in 1930.

They had nine children, Steve Mydlak married Marie Taschuk and lives in Edmonton. Annie mar-



John Mydlak, Eva Mydlak (Panas), Pearl Panas, Anna Shehinski (Eva's sister), Fred Shehinski.

ried George Danilak of Holden. They farmed there until 1975. Olga married John Jobor of Holden and they lived there until 1975, when they retired and moved to Camrose. Fred married Carrie Pewar of Round Hill in 1944. He took over the Mydlak farm

after his father's death. Nadia lives in Red Deer at the Michener Center. Mary married Martin Danilak of Holden. They farmed until 1976, when they retired and also moved to Camrose. Julia married Harry Chromik in 1944 and lived on a farm until Harry was killed in a train accident in 1956. Julia then moved to Daysland with her children. Harry Mydlak married Rose Lupino of Holden and lives in Edmonton. He works for the Postal Service. Tatianna (Florence) married Alex Woywitka of Edmonton who works for the Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The Mydlak children grew up on the farm and attended school at Scandia and Sandstorm. All of the work on the farm was done the hard way, cows were milked by hand, the prairie was plowed with horses to make fields for crops.

Mykytiuk, Phillip

Phillip Mykytiuk was born in 1904 in the County of Sokal, north of Lwiw in Ukraine. He came to Canada in 1928 and briefly worked in Vancouver and Kamloops, B.C.



Wedding of Phillip Mykytiuk and Nancy Wynnyk. Bridesmaid: Pearl Hladilo (left) Reclining: Bill Shyba (left).

In 1931, he married Nancy Wynnyk (sister of Mrs. Pearl Hladilo) in Kopernick. In 1935, they moved to the farm north of Holden, and then in 1946 moved to Vernon, B.C. where Mrs. Nancy Mykytiuk is presently living. Phillip Mykytiuk passed away in 1966.

Phillip and Nancy had five sons; Lawrence was born in 1932. He married Anne Koper (niece of the late Father Hanas, who was the Ukrainian Catholic Pastor during the building of the Church). He obtained an engineering degree from the University of B.C. After graduating, he joined the Air Force, retiring in 1980 as a Lt. Colonel. He now works for CMHC in Ottawa and they have four children: Robert, Janice, Maryanne and Patricia.

Ambrose was born in 1934. He presently lives and works in Vancouver, B.C.



Nancy and Phillip with Lawrence and Ambrose — 1935.

Andrew was born in 1936. He joined the Basilian Fathers in Mundare in 1954, and studied theology in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1963, and is presently a teacher and vice-principal at St. Basil College in Toronto.

Basil was born in 1938. He obtained an engineering degree from the University of B.C. and is presently working as an electronics engineer for Litton Systems in Los Angeles, California. Married to Joyce Shymanski, they have four children: Karen, Julie, Susan and Brian.

Alexander was born in 1939 and is presently working as a lab technician in the Spectroscopy Department of the National Research Council in Ottawa. Married to Diane Shymanski (not related to Joyce). They have two children: Donna and Christina.

Nahirniak, Joe and Emily

Joe Nahirniak settled on his father Mike Nahirniak's land in the Kopernick district. He was born and raised on the same place, and attended Unity School. He served in the Armed Forces for four years and was one year overseas. When Joe came back home he started farming. In a few years he bought another quarter of land. Joe married Emily Rogalsky of Mundare in 1964. After they settled down he bought another half section of land and got into mixed farming. They love gardening and are very active members in the Kopernick Church. Joe is treasurer for the church. Emily was head of the league one year and eight years a sister in the church. After services the parish priest has been dropping in for a hearty meal for twelve years. Emily has taken classes in cake decorating, rug looming, rug hooking, quilting and dancing. We are Canadians and love life.



Joe and Emily Nahirniak.

Nahirniak, Michael

Memories by Mary Nahirniak (Czapski)

In the spring of 1905, I came to Canada, from Galicia, Poland, with my parents, Jan and Anna Czapski. I was nine years old at the time, but I remember it very clearly. We travelled by train to Wetaskiwin, but my father wasn't satisfied with the area, so we moved on to Round Hill. The district that we settled in was called Quarrel, but was later changed to Koperville. When Koperville got their own post office the name had to be changed to



Jan and Anna Czapski.

Kopernick, as the mail was getting mixed up with another Koperville.

Our first summer in Canada we lived in a temporary shelter that my father had made from poles, over which hay was laid. That summer my mother sewed for neighbors in return for eggs, chickens, or whatever they could pay with. For light we would chop chips and burn them. My father went to work in Edmonton in the early fall, and came home with sixty dollars. That was like a fortune to us. We built our first Canadian home, bought a cow, and lived all winter on the sixty dollars. Our house, which consisted of one room plus an entrance, was made from logs and had a sod roof. We were very happy with our home, we even had one glass window. After buying the cow we had butter, which my mother would melt and put a wick into to make candles.

In 1906, my father went to Daysland to work on the railroad, while my mother continued sewing for the neighbors. At that time Father Diduck, a priest, came up only every six months or so, and everyone would take turns keeping him during his stay.

That year a young man who was working in Daysland came to live with us. He was Michael Nahirniak, from Chortkov, in the Republic of Ukraine. He paid room and board, and also did some odd jobs for my father. In 1910 we were married. I remember that not too many girls received engagement rings at that time but Mike did give me one which I promptly lost. He couldn't be too angry with



Mary and Michael Nahirniak.

me though, as he lost his wedding band and had to borrow one for the ceremony.

Mike and I lived with my parents for three more years at which time we bought a ¼ section from the C.P.R. We built our own home a very short distance from my father's. We had oxen to plow the fields, but Mike would broadcast the grain, harvest, and flail it all by hand. He was an extremely hard worker which was fortunate as we started our family along with our farm. In 1913, our first born was a girl, Tilley. We had just started to get used to having a baby, when in 1915 John came along. The two babies were a joy to us, and so was Stephen when he dropped in, in 1917. Before we knew it, it was 1919 and William was there. In 1921 there was Joseph, and then Stella in 1923. Then in 1924 it was Josephat. We didn't have a very large house so it was convenient that my parents lived right across the road because the older boys could sleep over there. A very good thing, as in 1926 Anne came. Then Catherine in 1928, Lillian in 1930, and Helen in 1932. Just when we thought that we had our family complete, Natalie came to us in 1936. But what we really wanted was a baker's dozen, so that's where Walter came in 1938.

In 1948, John took over Czapski's farm but soon sold to Mike and bought a farm in Innisfree.

Joe did most of our farming when he was quite young, so when Mike retired, we had no worries over our homestead.

Times were hard, but those are my wonderfully treasured memories.

We had sorrowful times too. In 1927 my little Josephat died from infantile paralysis. Then in 1933, just after the birth of her baby, Tilley died, having contracted tuberculosis. Baby Pauline came to live with us but the tuberculosis took her too, at the age of one month. My mother, Anna Czapski, passed on in 1941, and in 1948 my father, Jan Czapski, joined her.

Mike had a bad heart for some time but it was

quite a shock to me when he left me in 1957. We had just retired six months earlier to Edmonton, where we were living with our son Bill and his wife Doris. I couldn't stay in the city without my husband, so I moved back to the farm which seemed much nearer to him. In 1963 I moved back to Edmonton, and just took turns visiting with each of my children and their families. When it became too hard for me to move around I went to the extended care hospital, in Vegreville. In order to be closer to most of my children, I then moved to the Lynwood Nursing Home in Edmonton.

I would like to thank all my children for making me, and their father, so proud of them. God bless everyone of you.

John married Stephanie Palsitt, and they have one daughter, Caroline and two grandsons. They now live in Vegreville.

Steve married Lois Arthurs. Children are Jack, Robert, Bruce, Joy, Neil, and Nola. They have three grandchildren, and lives in Lake Cowichan, B.C.

Bill is married to Doris McRae. Children are Jeffrey, Terrance, Catherine, and Liana. They have six grandchildren and live near Tofield.

Joseph married Emily Sereda-Rogolski. He has one son Gary, and four step-daughters.

Stella now lives in Scarboro, Ontario with her husband John Izaryk. She has one son Warren.

Anne and her husband Nick Melenka live in Edmonton. Children are Darlene, Randall, and MarieLynn. They have three grandchildren.

Jean (Catherine) married Wilfred Moisan (deceased). She later married Orland McKeever. Children are Laurie, Marilynn, Collette, and Charlene. They live in Edmonton.

Lillian married Gudman Torstad (deceased). She lives with her son, Gregory, in Anaheim, California.

Helen lives in Willowdale, Ontario, with her husband Fred Armstrong.

Natalie married Bryce Anderson. They live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with their three children, Heather, Cheryl, and Paula.

Walter lives in Tofield with his wife Marguerite McKeever and their children, James, Janet, Kim, Keri, and Adrienne Melanie.

Nakoneczny, Teodor by Wm. Ogrodnick

Mr. Teodor Nakoneczny was born in 1899, in the village of Sienkow, county of Radziechown in the province of Galacia, western Ukraine. Teodor attended the public school for four years studying the Ukrainian and Polish languages and along with his father farmed eight hectares of land outside the village growing winter wheat and rye.

Teodor Nakoneczny.



At the age of 18 years Teodor was conscripted into the military forces of the First World War, serving in the Austrian, Polish and Russian armies, was captured and kept as a prisoner of war and later released.

During the spring of 1926, Teodor immigrated to Canada, landing at the port of Halifax, and then travelling west to a farmer near Mundare who had endorsed his affidavit, and here he worked for the neighboring farmers clearing the land by brushing at a meagre wage of one dollar per working day. Eventually, Teodor started farming on his own by leasing a farm, arranged by John Pasnak, south of Holden. Then he purchased a dwelling, in the village of Holden, from Anna (Peter) Komarnisky and is residing here at the present date.

Mr. Nakoneczny became a member of the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in 1965, and has been a regular attendant and has contributed generously toward charities.

Nalesnik, John

John Nalesnik was born in the Ukraine in 1870, and in 1896 married Mary Cwiach who was born in 1869.

In 1898 they immigrated to Canada and settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1900 they moved west to Strathcona, North West Territories. John worked at odd jobs to support his young family and also worked on the railroad. He purchased two teams of horses and was hired to help excavate the basement for the MacDonald Hotel, and when the project was completed he commenced operating his own freighting business.

In 1916 the family moved to the Hay Lakes area where they rented land and farmed for five years. In 1921 they moved to the Talbot District and rented the NE 26-48-17-W4 from George Maruszczyka. In 1924, John purchased the N½ of 19-48-16-W4. The



Henry Nalesnik and Joe White on Titan tractor, 1930.

younger children attended Talbot School. John and Mary Nalesnik had nine children, one daughter and eight sons.

Mary was born in Winnipeg and passed away at the age of one year.

Joe was born in Edmonton and passed away at Hay Lakes, Alberta at the age of eighteen years.

Henry was born in 1902. He purchased the NE 23-48-17-W4 and farmed there until he was called to the Army in World War II. He returned to farming after his discharge, and passed away in 1975.

Steve was born in 1907. He farmed the SW 29-48-16-W4 and later sold it to Mike Malowany. He is retired and lives in Camrose.

John was born in 1909 and passed away in 1963.

Paul was born in June, 1911. In 1946 he constructed a store on the northwest corner of the NW 19-48-16-W4 and opened on September 2, 1946. He later took a welding course at Calgary and further training in Edmonton. In 1960 a new store was built and the old one converted into a welding shop. Paul continues to serve the community faithfully seven days a week.

Fred was born in 1912 and passed away in 1924.

Tom was born in May, 1915. He served in the Army in World War II, and returned to farm the James Stickland property. He later sold the farm to Keith Bratrud and retired to live in Camrose, Alberta.

Mike was born in April, 1917. He also served in the Armed Forces in World War II. He purchased land from George Taylor and farmed until 1965 when

he sold to the Brejnak family. In 1974 he married Anna Carson. They are retired and reside a short distance south of Paul's Store.

Mr. Nalesnik passed away in 1942 and Mrs. Nalesnik in 1947.

Naslund, Henning

Henning Naslund was born in Helgum, Sweden in 1901 to Anna Martha (nee Erikson) and Jonas Peter Naslund. In February of 1924, Henning and his wife Anny, (nee Lauren) immigrated by boat to Canada. A skilled laborer in Sweden's timber industry Henning intended to find similar work in British Columbia, however, his father Jonas and brother Andrew who had immigrated before him convinced him to remain in Alberta and try farming. He took up residence with his father and purchased the quarter NE 24-47-17 and thus started at a new way of life.

In 1925, Henning's first child, Harry Emanuel, was born. That same year, what still is the family home was built on SW 30-47-16.



Henning, Alvar, Edna, Dagny and Harry Naslund.

In 1926, Henning bought a McCormick 22-36 International tractor and breaking plough, a big improvement over horses, and along with his own farm work took on clearing and breaking land for people around the district.

In November of 1929, Henning's wife Anny passed away at the age of 28.

In 1933 Henning heard of a cancelled homestead at Alder Flats. Being interested, he submitted his name along with those of six other interested men. To decide who was to get possession of it, the Minister of Public Affairs, threw the names into a hat and drew one out. Henning won the draw. The land was now



Edna, Harry and Dagny Naslund and Julius Nickolson.

his with the condition that improvements be made to it the first year. In compliance, the McCormick was driven up there, a log cabin built and twelve acres cleared that first year. Henning returned home but went back the next year to complete the clearing. Since the quarter was just too far from home, it was later sold.

In 1936, Henning and Edna Pederson, also from this district, were united in marriage. Two children were born to them, Dagny in 1937 and Alvar in 1944.

1936 also saw the Andrew Naslunds move to Viking and Henning and Irvin Pederson take over Andrew's job of threshing for people of the area. Threshing crews were a large, lively, hard working bunch of men, who according to Henning lightened their load with many jokes, pranks and much laughter. To Henning this was the best time of the year. In 1945, Henning bought a combine and a little sadly saw the last of the large threshing crews. Edna, on the other hand whose work included taking care of the cooking, washing and mending for all the hired men was greatly relieved to see the combine come.

Henning and Edna continued to farm until 1970 when due to ill health, Henning retired leaving the farming to his two sons, Alvar on the home place and Harry on the former Andrew Naslund place. His daughter Dagny became a nurse and is now living in Edmonton. Henning remained on his farm until his passing in 1976. His wife Edna is still living on the home place today.

Naslund, Jonas Peter

Jonas Peter Naslund was born in Helgum, Sweden in 1866. He immigrated to Canada in 1903. His first job was with the railroad in British Columbia. In 1907, he came to Alberta and worked on the railroad construction between Hardisty and Camrose. Their only tools back then were pick, shovel and wheelbarrow. In 1908, Jonas took over the Nelson homestead



Back Row: Signe Naslund, Clara and Olgar Nelson, Edna Henning, Jonas Naslund and Einar Erickson. Front Row: Florence, Lois and Lorraine Nelson; Elsie, Agnes, Dagney, Harry, Carl and Victor Naslund.

15 miles northeast of Bawlf on SW 30-47-16. Since money was scarce, he set out that same year on foot his pack stocked with peanuts and bread, to find work. A week's walking brought him to Edson and employment with the railroad crew of the Grand Trunk Pacific west of Edmonton.

In 1909, he returned to his homestead. In 1911, he broke up 15 acres so he could keep the homestead and get the title to the land. To clear the land he used a grub hoe and an axe, then four horses and a wooden brush breaker.

Jonas lived on his farm until his passing in 1948.

Nehajowich, Louie

I was born in Kopernick district in 1918, the eighth child of John and Anna Nehajowich. My father and mother came from Poland in early 1900's and took a homestead in the Kopernick area. This was later owned by me until 1974. My parents raised nine of us children there. Their first house was made out of sod. My father had to work on the railroad to make a few dollars, while my mother and we children stayed home and looked after the farm. Father had to plow the prairie fields with oxen, because oxen were cheaper. He didn't have money for horses until later on in life. He seeded by hand, cut the grain by sickle and threshed by flail. My father died in 1958 and my mother in 1954.

In 1942 I served in the army for a year. In 1945 I got married. My wife Helen and I farmed and raised our children on the home place until 1974, when we sold out and moved to Camrose. Our family consists of Doreen and her husband who have two children, Trevor and Tracy; Elaine and her husband Ken have one son Kevin; and Don and his wife Teri have two boys, Wesley and Jeffrey.



Jan and Anna Nehajowich.



Mr. and Mrs. Louie Nehajowich with Don, Doreen and Elaine.

Nelson, Andrew B.
as told to Margaret Nelson by Anna Charlotte
(Gabrielsson) Nelson

My husband, Andrew Branstad Nelson (Nilsson — Swedish spelling) was born near Malmo, Sweden in 1866. At the age of twenty he immigrated to the United States. At first he worked at railway building and later on the section crew for as little as 25¢ a day. After six years he had saved a little and filed on a homestead near Cheyenne, North Dakota.

It was not until about 1900 that he was able to produce an excellent crop of flax. He returned to Sweden and in 1902 brought back his sisters Hannah and Anna, my brother Ernest Gabrielsson and me. I was only twelve and my birthplace Tolange, Sweden seemed very far away. I attended school and found love and understanding in the home of an older couple Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon who helped me to learn the English language.



Andrew Nelson, 1894.

Continual crop failures prompted Andrew to look for greener pastures. In 1903 he moved into the Scona, (Holden) district of what is now Alberta. Here he filed on the N.W.¼ 12-48-16 and built a cabin. My brother Ernest, Andrew's two sisters and I came with him. The shack was fairly large with sleeping quarters in the attic. Andrew had brought ten horses and a few cattle and was considered to be "well-off".

In 1906 Andrew and I were married. I remember that it was extremely cold when we made the sixty mile trip to Wetaskiwin to contact a minister. I felt somewhat apprehensive about this new way of life and when I thought of my mother I cried for a moment. Instinct seemed to tell me that she would be happy for me and that my future could not be more difficult than the life she had led.

From that moment forward, Andrew never looked back. He added to the homestead quarter as time went on and eventually had title to Sec. 11-48-16 and the N.W.¼ 20-48-15 which he bought from Mr. Koppang.

Besides farming, Andrew was also a 'dealer'. Andrew raised horses and broke them. Oftentimes he would accompany a carload or even a trainload of livestock to Montreal or Chicago. He was a very good businessman. Travelling with a spirited team and buggy to places as far as St. Paul de Metis, Bonnyville, Edmonton, Vermilion and Wetaskiwin, he would buy cattle and horses from the homesteaders. These animals would be brought to what is now Holden and shipped to markets in the east.

A few years after our marriage we found it necessary to have a postal service for the district. Andrew put the wheels in motion to get one established and I became a postmistress in very short order. The post office was named 'Scona' in memory of the province of my birth in the southern part of Sweden. I was one of the few settlers who could read and write. English was my second language and I probably would not have been able to read and write it at all, but I had a very strong desire to improve my own capabilities and during those few short months of schooling in the States I had worked very hard. The neighbours were mostly all Ukrainian people. Now I was faced with an obstacle. How could I perform the duties of a postmistress if I could not communicate with the clientele? There was only one answer — learn to speak Ukrainian. I did. I learned with the help of a small boy, little Joe Mychaleyko who often came to our place and spent several days at a time with us. Many times his older brother, John, would come to fetch him home. Little Joe's parents had moved to the Scona district after spending some time in Strathcona. It was there that Little Joe learned to speak English.

It is surprising what you can do when you really have to. I wrote many letters for these fine people who could only speak a minimum of English. I enjoyed living near them and sharing their joys and sorrows. Some of their gay songs I'm still able to sing.

The Alberta Government paid twenty-five dollars a year for my services as Postmistress. When

mail delivery was twice a week, I was given a raise in salary to thirty-five dollars a year. I can remember mail days. The neighbours would come to pick up their mail. They managed to arrive, all at the same time and took the opportunity to visit with each other. I can still see the board floor of our little homestead shack after they left, especially in the spring when the mud would track in. Nothing to do but get down on my hands and knees and go after it with a scrub brush.



A. B. Nelson family 1958. Leonard, Alyse, Anna (mother), Grace, Lilly, Bill.

We had many hardships, as did all the early settlers, during the first few years of our married life. Our first child, Elsa, was born in 1907. However, she died of pneumonia at the age of four months. Henry was born in 1909. He, now a widower, still lives in the North Park District. Our second son, Peter, was born in 1911. He and his family are living on the quarter Andrew purchased in 1928. Ellen (Hellquist) was born in 1913. Lily, our third daughter, was born in 1915. She died of cancer in 1962. The son we lost, George, was born in 1918, but lived for only ten months. Our baby Alyse, was born in 1920. She now resides and works in Menlo Park, California.

We spent several memorable, hardworking years on the farm at Scona. During this time Andrew made improvements by breaking up some land, building rail fences and erecting the necessary farm buildings. I grew a garden and kept myself busy sewing, mending, darning and 'fixing'. I seemed to always get the jobs of mending shoes, harness or soldering whatever had to be repaired. I even built makeshift cupboards and shelves from wooden boxes or old boards. If an old setting hen needed a shelter, I was able to improvise something.

I loved the outdoors and trapped a lot of rats during those years. Pelts were only worth ten cents each in those days, but that soon counted up and I was able to send to the catalog for some yard goods to sew or a badly needed coat.

I remember one fall in particular when there were numerous ducks in the many sloughs on and near the farm. I decided to go hunting so I took the old twelve gauge, double barreled shotgun and started off. It was a beautiful fall day and as I approached a slough which seemed to be alive with my unwary prey I crouched down, aimed and fired both barrels. I ended up sitting on my bottom but had thirteen ducks to carry home.

Andrew's business, buying and selling cattle, made it necessary for us to leave the farm in Scona and move to Holden. I believe this was in 1912. Andrew had purchased a house which was located near the creamery and had it moved to a ten or fifteen acre plot south of the tracks near the stockyards. Shortly after we were settled, the house burned down. Andrew hired Leonard Horton, a carpenter, to build a new one. This newly erected house was my pride and joy. It was a barn-like structure with several rooms upstairs and for those times was considered to be a 'swell' home.

Andrew always had milk cows and pigs to help provide the necessities of life. Even in town, caring for animals formed a part of our life style.

In 1913 my mother, Elin Gabrielsson, whom I had not seen for seventeen years and my half brother Nils Rudolph, from Sweden, visited us. Mother brought news of my sisters Aida and Eileen and brother Sigfried. Mother and Nils Rudolph spent almost a year in Holden. It was so nice to have Mother there to help me cope with the new baby (Grace), two lively boys, cooking for the hired men and doing the hundreds of tasks pioneer women had to do.

I remember one special incident that I'm certain Bill and Leonard will never forget. Andrew returned home from Winnipeg after having sold two carloads of cattle. As usual the boys were down at the station to meet the train. They were quite happy to see Andrew who had been away for about a week. When Mr. Mumford, the drayman, opened the door to the baggage car they got the surprise of their young lives. There standing in a makeshift crate were two shaggy looking colts. These were Andrew's gifts to his two boys. Leonard got the bay and Bill got the grey. From that day on the boys were occupied with breaking their horses. Chores became a joy when Dick, Bill's horse, could be used on a stoneboat, sleigh or cart. He was a faithful horse and was among the herd that was moved to the North Park district.

Andrew kept several horses on the farm in the

Scona district. Bill remembers riding out there with his father in an open Buick. It must have been one of the first cars in Holden which was purchased second hand from Lars Johnson who had the garage. This car had the hand levers (gearshift) in the door and was complete with kerosene lamps. Later Andrew sold it to my brother Ernest Gabrielsson who also lived with us in Holden.

We were fortunate in having a school in Holden so that the children could have an opportunity to learn. Leonard was most interested in school and was eager to learn. His first teacher was Miss Carlysle for whom he had great respect. One day he could hear the school bell ring when he was about halfway there. His chores had delayed him that morning and he was a little bit late. He felt so badly about being late and missing school that he hid in a willow bush by a slough, sat down and cried. Missing school, for him, was worse than being punished. Bill, or Willy as he was called then, remembers Miss Stevenson as his first teacher. He also recalls that Mr. Brisbin was the principal.

In 1918 when the 'flu' epidemic was everywhere, I too, became ill. Dr. Farrell, our dedicated country doctor, made several calls to our home. His energetic efforts and medical abilities were sought after for miles around. He was truly a pillar of strength and was devoted to his profession, serving the pioneers with the only medical services known at that time. Our baby, George, who had not been healthy since birth was a constant care and because I was so run-down could not resist the 'flu'. Andrew sought for help and we were most grateful to have Mary Fjellstrom come into our home. Her capable nursing, under Dr. Farrell's guidance, her kindness and hours of tender care resulted in my recovery. Had it not been for her and Dr. Farrell, I'm certain I would not have survived.

In August of 1918 Andrew made arrangements to have the children and me travel to Manitou Lake near Watrous, Saskatchewan. This lake contained minerals which were considered to have healing qualities for almost any kind of illness. Mary Hanson accompanied me to assist with the children. We spent almost six weeks at the lake in a small rented cabin. Our daily ritual consisted of numerous bathings and boiling down the water to get the mineral residue. I was most happy to return home after that experience. The lake didn't do anything for any of us but when you have a sick child, you become desperate and will try anything that may help.

There were always a lot of men at the stockyards. Leonard and Bill, as children, spent a lot of time there. Occasionally the men would send the boys to the hotel to buy them some beer. This errand was

accomplished by taking a lard pail or a syrup pail up to the hotel where Mr. Fleming would fill it up for them. In those days only draft beer was available. After Leonard and Bill delivered the beer the two boys would race back to Hurum's store to spend the nickel they had earned.

There were numerous trains running through Holden. As each one would stop, freight would be unloaded on the station platform or directly onto Mr. Mumford's dray. His job was to deliver the freight to the businesses within the town. During the winter the children would tie their sleds behind Mr. Mumford's dray. They would have a hilarious time riding in this manner until all of the freight was delivered.

The railway station was the scene of much activity. As a matter of fact the train was the only means of transportation outside of walking or using horses. Mr. Fraser, the station agent, and Mr. Skakum, the section foreman, were very busy men.

Progress had, indeed, come to Holden. I remember several businesses, churches and elevators which emerged because of the special needs in this growing community. I also remember the Stuart elevator burning down when it was struck by lightning. What a tragedy!

Farmers in the district were also concerned with progress. Much of the land around Holden was very low and plans were made to drain the numerous sloughs that dotted the countryside. Leonard and Bill were quite intrigued with the huge, cumbersome machine which was brought in by train to do the job of ditching. This machine was moved by pulling it over rolling logs. It was a slow process and did not move very quickly as logs from behind had to be carried to the front in order to keep it rolling along. We can be grateful for the foresight, determination and hard work of those involved with the drainage project. The acres of farmland today would not be so accessible had it not been for the work of these hardy pioneers.

Our stay in Holden was not meant to last. We moved to the North Park district in the spring of 1920. One of the prime reasons for leaving Holden was to obtain grazing for the hundred head of horses Andrew owned. Land had been taken up in the area and no more range existed there. Andrew himself, had six quarters of land which he rented out as well as a substantial acreage in the town. This we left behind when we moved to what proved to be our new home for many years to come.

During the winter of 1920, I spent a few months with a dear friend, Inga Chetney, of Holden. Alyse was born during my stay with her. Andrew and the children survived beautifully in the cozy tent home during my absence.

In order to meet his obligations in the North Park district Andrew sold his six quarters of land at a sacrifice price. In 1923 Steve Laskosky bought NW¼ 11-48-16 and Anton Tchir bought SW¼ 11-48-16. In 1928 the E½ 11-48-16 was purchased by John Nelson and the NW¼ 20-48-15 was traded to George Black for a 1927 Buick. The homestead quarter NW 12-48-16 was, I think, bought by a Mr. Pasnak.

Since our home had burned down we moved to the place where Bill now lives. It had a two storey house of log construction built in 1911. Later, in about 1933, a kitchen and pantry were added. We were fortunate in having John Laskosky an old friend and carpenter from Holden, do the job for us.

Grace was working for Dr. F. G. Miller when Andrew was first admitted to the hospital. He had not been feeling well for some time. He was in and out of hospital in Elk Point several different times. He had a stomach ailment which proved to be cancer. Finally in June of 1931, he was hospitalized and remained there until his death in July. He had been a loving, considerate husband and father and was sadly missed by us all.

Many changes took place for us in the thirties and forties. Grace was married to Carl Hellquist in 1932. Alyse took a business course at Alberta College after high school at Heinsburg. Leonard married Hazel Botting in 1939 and went to live in the Norway Valley district. Lily and Alyse left home for the bright lights of Vancouver.



Anna Nelson and son Bill, 1979.

When I moved to Surrey in 1943 Esther Laboucaine who had worked for us came with me. After she married Harry Deagle in 1950 I lived alone until 1972. Then I became a resident of Zion Park Manor in Cloverdale. While living in B.C. I was able to make two trips back to Sweden to visit my family. After a brief illness in 1977, I moved to the Dr. Cooke Nursing Home in Lloydminster. I enjoy the care and

attention I receive here and am happy to be close to Bill and Leonard and their families. I enjoy playing the mouth organ and guitar for old friends when they come to visit. I enjoy singing the songs of my childhood and I know my children and great grandchildren are an appreciative audience. I have passed my ninety-second birthday and feel fortunate to have such a happy attentive family.

Nelson, Bernard, Anna and Family by Edna Nelson Ruskenveld

Bernard and Anna Nelson and their children Clarence and Edna, came to Holden in 1925. Bernard was born in Ratlidge, Wisconsin in 1888 and came to Rich Valley in 1906 with his family. Anna Johnson came from Astersund, Sweden with her folks and settled too, in Rich Valley. They were married in 1915. From this union there were three children, Florence, Clarence and Edna. Florence died at the age of two. Bernard and Anna had lived in Smithers, B.C. for four years in their early married life.

On arrival at Holden in 1925 they bought land from Oscar Nelson, Bernard's brother, five miles northeast of Holden (31-49-15). When Oscar lived at Holden he was one of the ball players on the Holden team.

We belonged to the Longridge School district, and had three miles to go to school. We bought the old schoolhouse when a new one was built. The neighbors thought there should be a dance in this structure to settle it on its new foundation. Music was supplied by my father on the guitar and Lars Petersen on the violin. A good time was had by all.

Two amusing incidents I remember. The ladies would get together and play cards. One night they were very late and Ella Johnson had to walk home across the field. She always carried her trusty flashlight. John Roseth, a bachelor living to the north and west, had gotten up at night and was looking around when he spotted the light going up and down, flickering and flashing in the field. The next day he was at Christiansons reporting this strange light. Later John Roseth bought a Model T Ford, and my dad gave him his first lesson in operating and driving his new car. All went well and he took off for home. Coming to the gate he wanted to slow down so he called out "Whoa!" He was just going too fast, so into the ditch he went.

Ed. Christianson had the first threshing machine in our district and threshed for the neighbors. Threshing time was always a special time of the year when there was baking of pies, cookies and cake, with plenty of hearty food for the men who could always devour a large meal and look forward to the

next. When the combines came into use the way of harvesting life was a lot easier on the housewife.

In order to add to our income our father went to B.C. every winter, putting up ice for the C.N.R. until refrigeration came in. The winters found my mother home with two school age children, livestock to look after, wood, coal and water to take care of until my dad's return.

Our transportation to school was horse and sleigh in the wintertime. We always left in the morning with warm blankets and tucked in. Coming home was a different matter, cold blankets sometimes mixed with snow.

We always waited with anticipation for Dad to come home from B.C. He always brought home a surprise. One year it was a radio, our first. This was our introduction to Amos and Andy.

In 1940 they bought a sawmill at Timeu, Alberta, north of Barrhead. For a few years we had farm and sawmill, then in 1944 sold the farm.

Clarence lives at Fort Assiniboine in the winter, and the last two summers at Lamont, still involved with lumber. He has one son Bernard living at Timeu, married with two children. Edna living at Westlock, has four children and nine grandchildren. Bernard and Anna lived in Barrhead in their last years. Bernard passed in 1970, and Anna in 1977.

Nelson, John

by Mrs. Irvin Pederson

John Nelson was born in 1882. He came from South Dakota, U.S.A. and lived in South Holden district. He met and married Alma Larson, who was born in 1890. Happiness was soon clouded for John when Alma passed away at the age of 21. John was left with two children, Alvin, born in 1907, and



Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson, Alvin and Jennie.

Jennie, born in 1909, to raise alone. Their youngest daughter Agnes, passed away at the age of five months.

The Isaac Olson family, friends of the family, offered to care for Alvin and Jennie. They took their schooling at Scona School. John then married Anna Larson, a half sister of his first wife, and brought Alvin and Jennie home.

He sold his half section of land in 1928 to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hendel, and moved to B.C. He returned to the South Holden district and bought land again, northwest of his first farm. He hired Evan Olsen of Holden to build a house and barn. They farmed there for a number of years, then he and his wife moved to Edmonton, where they made their home until their passing, Anna in 1947 and John in 1969 at the age of 87. Anna had four brothers, Lars Johnson, Pete, Olaf and Anton Larson, and her sisters were Carrie Myers, Mary Emerson, Tilda Holden and Alma Nelson.

Alvin had the misfortune of being bit by a hound at the age of five, which caused a permanent nervous condition. He went to Ground Birch, B.C. where he took a homestead. Failing in health, he went to live in the Phearson Home in Vancouver, where he still resides.

Jeannie married Mac Petersen of Chicago. Later she married Jess Fallstick and still resides in Chicago.

Nilsen, Mr. and Mrs. Nils E.

Mr. and Mrs. Nilsen were both born in Norway in 1869. They immigrated to the United States in about 1912. A few years later they came to Viking where Mr. Nilsen worked on the G.T.P. railroad. He later served as section foreman at Torlea. In 1920 he was



Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Nilsen, 1943.

transferred to Poe where they lived in the station until 1924 when they returned to Seattle. The waiting room of the station was a great place for the children to play when several families gathered at the Nilsen's for Christmas and other festivities.

Nilsens had one son, Olai who attended school at Poe. Later he attended Camrose Lutheran College and graduated in 1923.

Alfred Sorensen related one harrowing experience of Mrs. Nilsen's. She was carrying water, using a wooden yoke over her shoulders from which were suspended two big pails of water. A ram which had strayed to the station from a farm, saw Mrs. Nilsen plodding laboriously along the platform carrying water, "Mr. Ram" charged. Down went Mrs. Nilsen, yoke, pails and water onto the tracks below. Needless to say, she suffered many black and blue bruises as well as hurt pride.

In 1925 the Nilsens returned to Alberta living first at Ardrossan then at Ryley. Upon retirement they bought the Larson house in Holden where they lived until the late 40's. They then moved to Ryley where Mr. Nilsen died in 1955. Mrs. Nilsen moved to Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose where she died in 1957. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nilsen were buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Nohr, Magnus and Sigrid and Family

Magnus Olson Nohr was born in Oslo, Norway in 1860. Sigrid, daughter of Kerstin and Jons Jonson was born in Harjedalen, Sweden in 1871. They were married in Sweden in 1893. Eight children were born to them in Sweden, three of whom died in infancy.



Magnus and Sigrid Nohr.

In 1904 Dad immigrated to Canada. He worked in Ontario and B.C. He then came to the Holden area with a homesteader named Kopang. Dad filed on a homestead just half a mile from Kopang's, which was 9 miles south of Holden.

In 1906 he had saved enough money to send for Mother and five children. He met us at Wetaskiwin and rode on the train with us to Camrose. Then we travelled by ox team to Anders Hofflin's homestead. He took us to Ole Olson's where we bought a cow and calf, and were given a hen and little chicks. Dad hired a man to take us to Olberg's where we spent the night. Dad followed us with the oxen and the animals. Next morning Mother milked the cow and gave us all the milk we could drink. She then walked to the homestead carrying the pail of milk. Our first meal there was "grot" and milk. Mother and Dad were so happy to have the family finally reunited. Mother was delighted with the beautiful land and couldn't get over that 160 acres belonged to us. Dad had planted a garden and built a one roomed house over a cellar covered with shingles and lined with tar paper. Our well provided very good water. We had brought two chests containing all our clothing, bedding, wool carders, spinning wheels, sewing machine, copper cooking utensils and her guitar. Dad built a sod barn and chicken coop and put up hay for winter. He had used all his money so had no choice but to go back to work at the logging camp. Mother found herself alone with us children facing winter. Elise was 12 years old, Kristine 8, Sergina 6, Johnny 4, and Alma 2 years old. We had a trundle bed to shove under the big bed in the daytime. The stove was used both for heating and cooking. Mother and I spent most of the day sawing windfalls that had been gathered for fuel. Mother was always cheerful, and in the evening would take down the guitar and we would sing and play. At bedtime we put on warm clothes and covered our heads to keep warm when the fire went out. We never had any colds or sickness that first winter.

Wool was plentiful. Mother carded and spun the wool yarn that she knitted into socks and mittens. She sewed all our clothes and saved all the scraps in a bag for making colorful quilt tops. The quilts filled with wool batts kept us warm. All shopping was done from Eaton's and Simpson's catalogs. Mother won two prizes that were awarded to the customer who had bought the most yard goods in the year. One prize was \$25 worth of yard goods, the other a sewing machine, especially welcome as the one brought from Sweden was worn out. Wildlife, was plentiful. Feathers were saved for pillows. Nothing was wasted those days.

The winter of 1906-07 was very hard. Half the time mail didn't get through. Dad read in the papers

of prairie people freezing to death, so came home before the end of the logging season. He never left the homestead to go to work after that. He used the extra money to buy a team of horses and another cow. I can't recall any real hardship and no one went hungry. Six more children were born to them in Canada: Nina (1907), Tegner (1909), Elvira (1911), Tellof (1914), Sigfrid (1916) and Helena (1917). When names ran short children were numbered Nina (9), Tegner (10), Elvira (11) and Tellof (12).

Dad and Mother with the help of Sigfrid continued farming until Dad's death in 1941 at the age of 81 years. Mother and Sigfrid farmed until 1945 when they moved to Burnaby, B.C. There she lived, smoked her pipe, played her guitar, or accordion to the grand old age of 98. She passed peacefully in 1969.



Back Row: Tina, Elise, Sigrid, Johnny, Magnus, Tegner, Nina.
Middle Row: Alma and Sergina. Front Row: Sigfried, Helen, Elvie, Tellof.

The grandchildren have fond memories of grandma with her trained poodles who would sit up and smoke or would dance if she said "Dunsa, dunsa". She always had goodies in her cupboard for them. Grandpa is remembered for the rides he gave them on his white horse Betsy, and his lap big enough to hold three or four grandchildren at once. Fond memories are held by family and friends of the love, open hearts and willing hands of Mr. and Mrs. Nohr.

Elise — I started work as a waitress in the Holden Hotel in 1914 and later in Edmonton. I got tired of this so took stenography training at Alberta College. I worked as a secretary in Calgary until 1924, when I married Percy McEntee. We moved to Detroit, Michigan where Percy got a good job with Ford Motor Co. We were happy and prosperous and had one son David, when tragedy struck, Percy passed away in 1936. In 1938 I married Henry Hopstead. In

1952 I lost David in a car accident. Henry and I retired to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Henry passed away in 1966. In 1973 I sold out and moved to Burnaby, B.C.

Kristina — I left home in 1919 and took a stenography course in Calgary, but ended demonstrating Klim and George Washington coffee. I then demonstrated and sold cosmetics which led to a career in beauty culture lasting many years. I owned and sold several businesses in Calgary, Turner Valley and Vancouver. In Turner Valley I met and married Burt Rust a driller from Oklahoma. When we were divorced I moved to Vancouver, where I married Harry Martinick, who had his own fishing boat. We had many happy years together. One day he got into a storm at sea and went down with his boat. We had one son, Gary, now married to Shelley they have two daughters and a son.

Sergina — married Charles Sizer. See their story.

Johnny — Johnny started work as a linesman for the telephone company. Later he worked in lumber mills and owned a trap line. He passed away in 1954.

Alma — was the youngest of the Nohr children to be born in Sweden. I am married to John Boa and we are retired in Abbotsford, B.C. We have one daughter Natalie, married now living in Reno, Nevada. John and his wife Carol operate a cabinet factory in Abbotsford. Our youngest son Robert works and lives on Vancouver Island.

Nina — Nina was married to Lewie Ritland, now deceased. She is now Mrs. Dutour and lives in Abbotsford with her husband. (See Lewie and Nina Ritland story.)

Tegner — He mostly worked in sawmills and later owned a cedar shake mill. He married Ethel Swanson and they had nine children. Now he is retired and spends his time among his children in the B.C. interior.

Elvira — I took a beauty culture course and worked at this until I married Barney Wilson in 1934. Barney introduced me to the game of golf. Our hobbies are curling, golfing and travelling. Our eldest daughter Marcia born in 1939 is married to Don Edey. They live on an acreage near Okotoks and raise Arabian horses. They have four children. Our youngest daughter Colleen married Chuck Knight who passed away in 1980. She went back to work for Calgary Transit. Colleen and Chuck had two sons.

Tellof — He enjoys working with animals and has ranched most of the time. He married Bertha Ritland and lived in Glendon for several years. They had two children, Carol and Elton. Tellof is at present working on a ranch in Mission, B.C.

Sigfrid — After staying on the home farm until 1945, Sigfrid moved to Vancouver. He married Phyl-

lis Dawson and went into construction business. He passed away in 1960.

Helena — I am the youngest of the Nohr family. In 1936 I married Angus Coates, a long time childhood friend. Angus worked as a butcher around Holden for a short time, then left for Sudbury where he worked as a city police for 27 years. I was employed in department stores in Edmonton until I took up hairdressing at which I worked until Angus became established and sent for me in 1943. He retired in 1970 and we moved to Burnaby, B.C. where he worked for the Vancouver water board. He passed away in 1976. Angus and I had one daughter Ardetha who lives in California. I have one granddaughter.

Nord, Edgard and Agnes by Doris Ogrodnick

In the spring of 1902, Edgard Nord, at the age of seven, accompanied his parents to Wetaskiwin, Alberta. From Strasbourg South Dakota the family came in conjunction with many others who came to take up homestead land in the Bardo-Dodds-Round Hill area. Edgard's father, "Ole", was never to see his family settled on the land he had chosen, for he was the victim of an accident that occurred when the team drawing a wagon load of settlers' effects bolted, and he was thrown under the wheels. His mother proceeded to the land located one mile east of Dodds, where she brought up her family of five.



Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Nord.

Agnes Byford was born in Waterville, Quebec and came west with her parents by settlers' train to Wetaskiwin in 1900. It was here that Edgar and Agnes met for the first time — as children five and seven.

In the spring of 1917, James and Anna Byford moved their family to the Ryley area, where Edgard now the owner of a shiny black buggy and a spirited team, would renew his acquaintance with Agnes now a mature young lady of twenty. They were married in October of the same year.

Almost immediately Edgard was conscripted to the Canadian Army. Then before one year had elapsed, the war was over, and their oldest daughter, Doris, had arrived. This latter event was very soon eclipsed by the frightening epidemic that followed the troops home, "The Flu of 1918." The Nord household was mercifully spared and Agnes always attributed this to the efforts of Grandma Nord, who always kept the clothes and utensils sterilized and the air in the small house disinfected by keeping a can containing water and formaldehyde on the back of the stove at all times.

Over one hurdle and on to the next — "the hard winter of 1919." Food ran out and the loss of livestock was horrendous. Again the Nord herds were spared but only because of the thatch on the farm buildings was removed and used to feed the starving cattle.

The twenties were good years for Edgard and Agnes. Morley, Audrey and Ida arrived to complete their family. Their farming operations were productive, and the team and buggy were replaced with a shiny Model T. Edgard took steps to mechanize his farming when he purchased a Wallis Tractor and some attachments. They remodelled their home to accommodate their growing family.

So when the "crash of '29" came, Edgard, like many other Canadians was up to his ears in debt. "The depression that followed was hard on our dad," writes his daughter Doris. "He always felt he had been robbed of his prime and his chance to prosper." Mother was different. She took everything in her stride and could look back on it as the best time of her life, when she was needed by her growing family, her neighbours and the many transients that found their way to her door at mealtime. She was affectionately known as "Aggie" and she greeted all with a smile, a word of encouragement and a cup of coffee.

When it came to thrift, Aggie enjoyed every budget balancing project she ever initiated — and there were many. She made her own soap, preserved her own meat, sewed all our socks, mitts, quilts and undies from scraps and hand-me-downs. For years she bought no yeast or matches. Bread was made

with a sour dough starter, and her fire was never allowed to go completely out. Dad owned a cigarette lighter and only once when he was far from home was she obliged to go down to the road and beg a match from a passer-by to get her coffee pot perking again.

Perfect evidence of her dedication to family and friends exists on the pages of her diary, a document faithfully kept for thirty years, the last entry made two days before her passing.

Edgard and Aggie and daughter Ida moved to Holden in 1958. They lived out their days in the house built and occupied by Dr. Stewart. Other owners were Lewie Ritland and Mrs. Madsen. Here they made many acquaintances and lasting friendships. Agnes was one of the original members of the Ladies' Friendship Group. She suffered from diabetes and passed away at the age of sixty five, in 1962. Edgard reached the age of seventy eight, and passed away in 1974.

The Nord Children:

Doris: born in 1918, married Joe Ogradnick. (See Joe Ogradnick story)

Morley: born in 1920, joined the R.C.M.P. He was appointed to the Governor General's Troops in Ottawa. He married Violet Ealey of Limerick, Saskatchewan. Their three children are Leslie Janet and Bob.

Audrey: born in 1923, was bank clerk, and an agent for A.G.T. She married George Knudslie. They had seven children; Monica, Ramona and Roderick (twins), Jeffrey, Barry, Agnes and Morley. Miss Ida Nord; born in 1925 remained at home to look after our parents till their passing. She now resides with her sister Audrey, and spends her time baby-sitting and tending her tiny house.

Nordstrom, Adolph Family by Clara Morland

My folks, Serina Fredrika and Adolph Nordstrom with a family of nine immigrated to Alberta in the fall of 1901 from Revillo, S.D. Due to a delay in getting railroad cars they did not arrive at Wetaskiwin until October. They loaded furniture, machinery and seed, and set out, with cattle and horses trailing, for their homestead SE 10-50-15-W4 northeast of Holden. In the latter part of October they got as far as the home of Hannah and Andrew Foss, near Round Hill, and asked to camp overnight. Mr. Foss told them it was too late in fall for them to make preparations for winter and that they might lose their stock and even their own lives. He invited them to winter with them, and since the house was small, some could stay with his brother. They gratefully accepted this gracious



Adolph Nordstrom family. Back Row: Oscar, Carl, Hilmer. Middle Row: Lester, Herman, Fritz, Johnnie and Selma. Front Row: Clara, Adolph, Serina and Ethel.

hospitality. I often wonder how they managed with wall-to-wall people, nine of the Foss family and eleven Nordstroms. Some stayed with Nels Foss who had a family of ten. Being of the true pioneer spirit, they parted the best of friends, and members left of both families still enjoy having coffee together. My family then went on to their homestead.

They worked hard to build their first house of logs with a sod roof. A log barn, and log fences came next. Mother told me of a prairie fire coming directly for their home, fanned by a high wind, when Father had gone to Wetaskiwin for supplies. She gathered up the children and some supplies with a prayer on her lips and fled to the middle of a ploughed field. Just before the fire reached their home the wind changed and all was saved. Her prayer was answered. There were hard and good times. We were thankful for plenty of food and clothes. Later other settlers came, so they were not so alone. Adams School was built in 1904. I remember the day when I started school in 1912, the drifts were so deep the horses could not get through. Dad and eldest son Carl had a small butcher shop in Holden for awhile. Later, in 1912, Dad drove a mail delivery from Holden to Martins Post Office, a mile north of Adams School. In the year 1908 diphtheria struck our family of thirteen. All but Mom and Dad and Fritz were struck down by it. Two men travelling through had asked to stay the night, and Mom and Dad never turned anyone away. Dr. Farrell who attended us, thought one of those men must have been a carrier of the disease, as no one else in the district had it. One sister seven years old, and a brother one year old, passed away.



Walter and Bertha Nordstrom.

The doctor gave me up too, but it broke at the side of my neck and I came through. It was a sad and trying time for us all. We owed a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Farrell. As well as attending, and Mrs. Farrell helping Mom, they brought us anything we needed. We were quarantined for a long time.

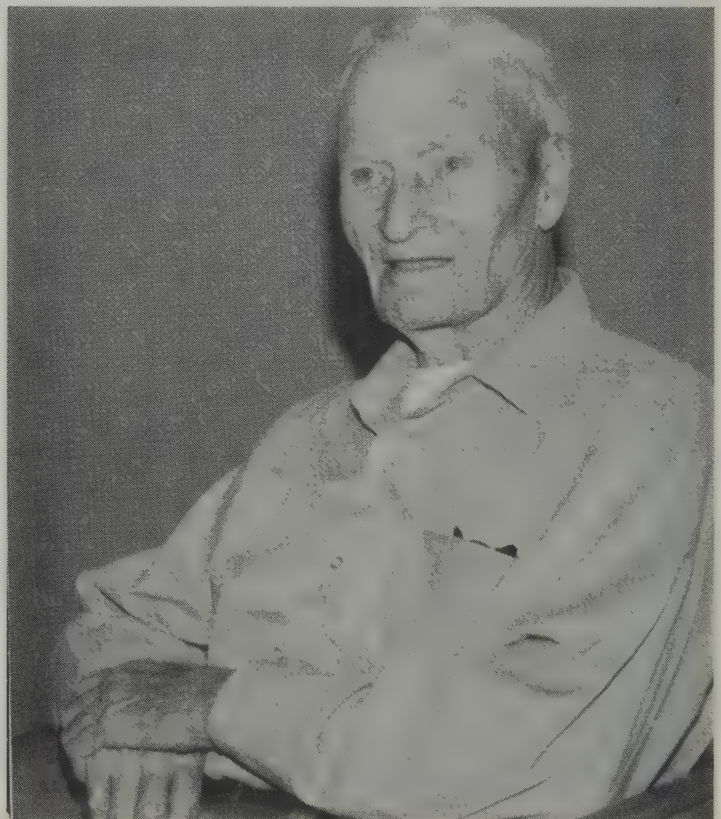
We were a family of fourteen counting two deceased, and had a lot of fun and games. We were a close knit family, learned to love and share with one another. Mother taught us the Bible and faith in God. Later a pastor came from Viking and held services in our home and the home of Elia and Jens Morland. Two of my brothers were in the services, Fritz in World War I and Walter in World War II.

Nordstrom, Albert Family by Albert Nordstrom

I was born in 1921 northeast of Holden on a farm, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nordstrom. I took my schooling at Marconi school. Most of the time we walked the three and a half miles to school. At the age of sixteen, I went out to work for 50¢ a day.

In 1938 my family moved to Ontario. I followed a year later, but only stayed three months because I didn't like it there. In the 1940's I "rodeoed" for seven years. During the late 40's Hilmer Olsen and I bought a cat and brush cutting outfit. We stayed in that business till 1951.

In 1950 I married Alice Meadahl. We have three children, David, Donna and Brenda. David works



Oscar Nordstrom, 1974.

for Border Paving. Donna is married to John Goetz. They have three children and live in Edmonton. Alice passed away in 1974, when Brenda was three years old. I still have her with me.

I love cattle so have worked with cattle most of my life. I worked on ranches in southern Alberta, coming to Camrose in 1954 and working on Mohler's Hereford Farm. In 1966 I started working for Hill's Ranching Company near Camrose, and I am still here. I have made four trips to the Toronto Royal Fair with cattle.

My mother passed away in 1972. My dad, still living, is 96 years old.



Albert Nordstrom family.

Nowodworski, Friedrich (Fred) by Agnes (Nowodworski) Stambaugh

Fred Nowodworski was born in Groswalde, Kreis Ortelsburg, Germany in 1894.



Back Row: Bonnie Teske, Jack, Agnes and Kevin Stambaugh;
Audrey and Gordon Teske. Front Row: Tillie Nowodworski,
Colleen Teske, Fred Nowodworski, Ronald Teske.

Dad, his parents and three young sisters immigrated to Canada in 1902 and homesteaded on the NW 18-48-16 which later became part of the Palmer district. He had commenced his education in Germany, and when Palmer School was built he was enrolled there. The first teacher was Miss Carrie Ritland.

He farmed with his father until 1922, then rented land five miles north of Holden from Adam Dorin. The property is now owned by Fred Halabut.

In 1927 he purchased the S½ of 3-49-17, seven miles south of Ryley and later the SE 3-49-17. There had been little improvement done to this property and he was faced with the task of clearing and breaking the land before crops could be seeded.

In 1928 Dad and Mom, the former Ottilie Konetzka were married in Edmonton in a double wedding ceremony with his sister Guste and Jim Brown. Rev. Klewer officiated.

Mom was born in 1908 in Glouch, Kreis Ortelsburg, Germany and had come to Edmonton in 1924 to stay with relatives.

Mom recalls their first dwelling was a small one room shack and the men Dad employed that summer occupied a granary nearby.

Construction on a two storey frame house commenced that summer.

Mom always had a big garden and canned large quantities of fruit and vegetables. Meat and poultry were canned and hams and bacon cured and smoked. In the 1940's a Locker Plant was established in Ryley and it was welcomed by many farm women in the community.

Dad had his own threshing machine and for many years threshed for the farmers in our community and others in the surrounding districts.

I was born in 1929 and my sister Audrey in 1934. Dr. J. L. McPherson our family doctor, attended Mom.

Audrey and I received our early education at Talbot School. My first teacher was Mr. Henry Husby and Audrey's was Miss Anna Parsons. We both attended Ryley High School and Alberta College in Edmonton.

We were fortunate to have a spring fed creek west of our yard, and for several winters it was used as a community skating rink by the young people in our community. They enjoyed many wiener roasts and homemade ice cream.

I married John E. (Jack) Stambaugh in 1953. (Refer to John E. Stambaugh History.)

Audrey married Gordon Teske of Bruce, Alberta in July, 1953 and they lived at Redwater where Gordon was employed by Imperial Oil. They later moved to Buck Creek, then Drayton Valley where Gordon

worked for Pembina Pipeline. In the early 1960's they purchased the SE 4-49-17 located seven miles south of Ryley, and in 1964 they began farming on a full time basis. They were the recipients of the Farm Family award a few years ago. They have three children.

Bonnie married Brian Burnstad in 1977. They reside in Redwater where Brian is employed by Imperial Oil and Bonnie as Administrator of the Senior Citizens Lodge.

Ronald owns his own farm just north of his parents and farms with his father.

Colleen is a recent graduate in Rehabilitation Services.

In 1958 Dad and Mom retired to live in Ryley and Dad served on the Village Council for several years. He passed away in 1970. Mom continues to live in Ryley and still enjoys her gardening during the summer months.

Nowodworski, Gottlieb

by Agnes (Nowodworski) Stambaugh

Gottlieb Nowodworski was born in 1857 in Groswalde, Kreis Ortelsburg, Germany.

His first wife passed away leaving him a widower

with two daughters. Katherine, married, immigrated to the United States and resides in Illinois. Anna remained in Germany and passed away several years ago.

In 1892 Grandpa married Anna Kniscia who was born in 1869.

Adam Dorin, who had come to Canada in 1900, corresponded with Grandpa encouraging him to come to Canada, and emphasized the need for settlers and tradesmen.

My grandparents and their four children, Fred, Freda, Minnie and Guste landed in Halifax late in the summer of 1902. They travelled by train to Wetaskiwin where Grandma and the children stayed for a short time with the Krause family while Grandpa made his way to the Dorin homestead. He looked at the land available in the area and chose the NE 18-48-16-W4. He returned to Wetaskiwin to file on his homestead, purchase a team, wagon, livestock and supplies. They loaded the wagon with their few household effects, personal belongings and supplies and journeyed to the Dorin homestead where they had been invited to spend the winter.

In the spring of 1903 the family moved to their homestead. The first dwelling was built around the



Gottlieb Nowodworski family. Standing: Guste, George, Fred, Emily, Minnie. Seated: Grandma, Anne, Myrtle, Grandpa and Freda.

base of a large tree. Grandpa had devised a frame of poplar poles, then covered the entire structure with thatch made from long grass and reeds.

They were faced with the monumental task of clearing and breaking the land. Hay was cut by hand with a scythe, then raked and stacked.

Grandpa was a skilled bricklayer. The trade he had practised in Germany became a valuable asset when he started to build a sod house that summer. It was completed by fall and the family moved in.

I am told that cooking was done outdoors that first summer and water was obtained from a large slough nearby. A well was dug later and yielded an ample supply of fresh water.

A garden plot was prepared and seeded and the older children were assigned the task of weeding and hoeing the cabbage and potato patch. Some of the vegetables from the garden were dried and the seeds reserved for planting the following year. Fresh meat was available by butchering their own livestock. This was cut into portions, salted and stored in stone crocks. Grandpa later built a smokehouse and meats were cured and smoked.

Soap was made from rendered animal fats. Coffee was made by removing the husks from kernels of barley and wheat. The grains were washed, roasted with a bit of butter, then stored. A hand cranked coffee mill was used to grind the kernels before the coffee was brewed.

In 1904 Grandpa and Grandma commenced construction of a log house and continued to occupy this home until 1919.

Grass fires were prevalent during the summer in those early years, and my Aunts recalled one that started south of Daysland in 1904. Families worked long hours making fire breaks around their property for protection.

Grandpa was adept at making fishing nets. He had heard about the abundance of fish in Amisk Creek. He took my dad and two aunts and they returned with a large supply. They ate fish, salted them and the remainder was shared with their few neighbors.

In 1904 Mr. Kennedy opened a store approximately four and one half miles northwest of the homestead. The store was a welcomed addition to the area, and Grandpa found he no longer needed to travel to Wetaskiwin for supplies and mail.

Palmer School was opened in 1905 and some of the children were enrolled. Other family members who were born later also obtained their education at Palmer.

Grandpa bought young steers and trained them as oxen. He had devised a yoke and traces and would hitch them to a stone boat with rocks added for

weight. One day a steer lay down and Grandpa could not make it budge. In desperation he set fire to the tip of its tail. It moved!

In 1907 Grandpa purchased a Case steam engine and threshing machine. Andrew McQuarter was hired as "machine man". "Spike pitchers" were paid \$1.50 per day, the "straw" and "water monkeys" each received \$1.00 per day. A farmer was charged \$25.00 to have four large stacks of bundles threshed.

My Aunts recalled the harsh winter of 1918-19 when feed was so scarce they found it necessary to remove the thatch from the roof of the old log house to use as feed for the livestock.

Early in 1918 construction commenced on a large frame home, and the house was completed in 1919. There were many young people in the community by this time and the new home became the centre for many social gatherings.



Nowodvorski sisters in 1974: Emily Day, Myrtle Logan, Minnie Mattis, Guste Brown, Anne Milner and Freda Dorin.

In 1920 my grandparents purchased their first car, an Overland and the driving was delegated to the boys. I am told Grandpa's early attempts to drive almost proved disastrous, so he continued to use his faithful horse, buggy or cutter.

Grandpa and Grandma had a family of nine children, three sons and six daughters.

Fred married Otilie Konetzka. (Refer to Fred Nowodvorski History.)

Freda married Adam Dorin. (Refer to Adam Dorin History.)

Minnie married Fred Mattis. (Refer to Fred Mattis History.)

Guste was born in October, 1899. In April, 1928 she married Jim Brown in a double wedding ceremony with my parents. The Brown's farmed in the Vermilion Valley district until 1934, then moved to

the Bateman district south of Daysland. They retired from farming in 1952. They have five sons, two daughters, twenty-seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Jim is a resident in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose and Guste resides in Daysland.

George was born in October, 1903. In 1920 he left the farm to work in a logging camp at Golden, B.C. and it was there that he began his career in cooking. He decided to settle in Seattle, Washington and in 1929 he married Blanche Beckos. They had two children Anne and Richard.

Anne married George Yonlick in August, 1953. They are both teachers and reside in Bellingham, Washington. They have two children, Cathy and Chris.

Richard married Dawn Nelson in 1961. They have four children, Patricia, Deborah, Lisa and Richard Jr.

Richard is a building contractor. The family resides in Kirkland, Washington.

George passed away in July, 1946 and Blanche in the 1950's.

Emily was born in October, 1905. In 1924 she accompanied her brother George to the United States. In January, 1933 she married Harold Day. They made their home in Portland, Oregon for many years, and are now retired and reside in Gladstone, Oregon.

Emil was born in 1908 and passed away in February, 1911 at the age of three years.

Anne was born in 1911. She married Mortie Milner of Vegreville in 1939. They have been in the hotel business for many years, and reside in Calgary, Alberta. They had three children.

Darlene passed away at an early age.

Miriam is married to Arnold Bezeau an instructor at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. They reside on an acreage at Cochrane, Alberta and have one son, Peter.

Irvin married Susan Campbell of Stavelly. They reside in Victoria, B.C. where Irvin manages a family business. They have two daughters, Dara and Tayva.

Myrtle married W. G. (Bill) Logan. (Refer to W. G. Logan History.)

In 1938 Grandpa and Grandma decided to leave the farm. They bought a small home situated on an acreage at Holden and retired. Grandpa passed away in August, 1941 and Grandma in December, 1941.

Ogrodnick, Anton

by Wm. Ogrodnick

The first Dominion Lands Act of 1872 provided for free homesteads of one hundred and sixty acres for settlers, and after paying a ten dollar filing fee,

the homesteader had to comply with various regulations, including a three year residence clause before earning freehold title to the land. The work was back breaking but the deed gave thousands of families permanent status in this land. The Ukrainian people, along with other Europeans, took advantage of the Dominion Land Act because of the economic, political and religious oppressions in the homeland. Like every other people, these settlers embraced a variety of characters, ranging from some who were illiterate to well educated leaders.

Anton Ogrodnick (1879-1972) immigrated to Canada in 1904 from Bila, Chertko, Western Ukraine, with his father, Peter, brother Dmytro, and six sisters, namely, Dorothy Woichyshen, Lucy Koroluk, Nancy Atamanchuk, Pauline Kulba, Tekla Kondro and Doris Podolan.

Anton homesteaded seven miles north from the present location of Holden and got married in 1905 to Sophie Bartman (1886-1957), who had emigrated from the village of Chornykonetz, Chortkiw in 1902. Sophie had the opportunity, prior to her marriage, to work for two years for an English family in Edmonton, and in the meantime became quite conversant in the English language. The Ogrodicks' nearest town was Edmonton, and several times Anton walked there and returned with a supply of flour for the family. Later, Vegreville was established which was considered to be closer. He narrated that one autumn he had purchased a yoke for the oxen which was to accompany a team of horses to draw a binder, brought it home and to his utter dismay discovered that it did not fit and had to be exchanged. He made two trips to Vegreville all in one day, walking all the way.

Father was always interested in the local church and community affairs and assisted with the building of the two churches at Borschiw. He served as councillor in the Beaver Lake Improvement District during 1912-14, and during this time assisted with the transfer of the so-called Improvement District to the Beaver Lake Municipality presently known as the County of Beaver #9.

Mother along with raising the family and assisting with the farm work, served several years as the treasurer of the Ladies' Aid at Borschiw. The parents reared a family of nine children, under most adverse physical and economic conditions, consisting of two daughters and seven sons; Annie Kylvnochko of Viking, Pauline Jiry of Edmonton, John (1908-65) and Peter (1913-72) of Inland were farmers, William (see Wm. Ogrodnick story), Steve served in the Canadian Armed Forces for two years and is now living in retirement near Victoria, B.C. Nick taught school for 35 years and is now retired and residing in Edmon-

ton. Harry was a supervisor of correspondence lessons for two years during the teacher shortage and now farms in the Inland district, and Alex still farms and resides on the original homestead.

Ogrodnick, Dmitro and Michaelina

Dmitro, son of Peter and Maria (Kuly) Ogrodnick was born in the village of Belo, Chortkiw in the western Ukraine, in 1876. On being released from compulsory military training in 1899, he and his wife and infant son set sail for Canada along with his parents, brother Anton and six sisters. Tragedy followed them as on board his wife fell ill and died and upon reaching Winnipeg, the infant passed away. In 1902 they all stepped off an immigrant train at Strathcona, then in the North West Territories, and took off walking toward the east. They arrived in the Beaverhill Lake area, and Dmitro took his homestead two miles south of Haight.

Michaelina, born in 1891 in the province of Galicia emigrated with her parents, Wawro and Paranka Baraniuk. When the vessel Bulgaria docked at Halifax the family set out for the Beaverhill Lake area to homestead. Michaelina, a girl of twelve was forced to find work. Fortunately, she found employment with a kindly policeman and his wife, the latter teaching her to cook and sew. They also taught her to read and write English, a task made easier because Michaelina was fluent in both Ukrainian and Polish.

In 1905 she met and married Dmitro Ogrodnick and went as a very young bride to his homestead at Haight.

A log hut, clay plastered and hay thatched was erected and Michaelina working hand in hand with her husband, helped to clear the land. Oxen wagon and walking was the only mode of transporting supplies from Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton. Things progressed and Dmitro purchased the quarter of land bordering his homestead. From the one cow that formed the nucleus, he built a sizeable herd.

A traditional outdoor oven was built and one of



Alice, Dora, Mrs. Ogrodnick, Barbara, Anne and Jean.



Dmitro and Michaelina Ogrodnick family. Standing: Dora, Mike, Mary, Annie. Front Row: Michaelina (holding daughter Margaret), Barbara, Paul, Dmitro, Jean and Joe.

the fondest memories the Ogrodnick children hold is the smell of baking bread that wafted in the air to meet them coming from school. The long handled wooden spade for removing bread from the oven, spoons, rolling pins and bowls were hand made usually by the older members of the community. Dmitro dug wells by hand to supply the livestock with water. In 1918, however, George Lyons of Ryley drilled a deep well, which still operates on the farm.

In the twenties the Ogrodnick farm flourished. A two-roomed house with shingle roof was erected to accommodate the growing family.

Michaelina, always hard working and organized, raised turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens. Her winter project was stripping feathers to make quilts (pirona), and pillows.

In 1926 their first daughter, Mary was married to Harry Rurka at Borschiw Church with the reception at home. A platform was built in the yard and dancing went on for several days.

Dmitro took ill and died in Vegreville hospital in 1928 at the age of fifty-two. Michaelina was left with eight of her nine children at home, the youngest arriving a few months after his death. Michaelina with the help of the children, maintained the now large farm operation throughout the "dirty thirties", when the bottom fell out of the price of farm products — not to forget the mosquitoes and the caterpillars.

The Ogrodnick children were taught to uphold their native language, religion and culture. Dmitro and Michaelina helped to build the first log church at Borschiw in 1905, on the site of the present beautifully domed structure (1939). They helped with the building of Haight Hall in 1921, and later the family assisted in erecting the present large parish hall at Borschiw.

Michaelina liked to tell listeners of their first trip to Vegreville for supplies. Apparently Mr. and Mrs. Ogrodnick and Mr. and Mrs. Derdak aboard a wagon drawn by a faithful team of oxen, set out for their destination. After travelling for many tedious hours they wondered why there was no sign of the community. Going on and on, they had a rude awakening when they found out they were back at the starting point, having just made a large circle around a large body of water.

After the C.N.R. came through, Holden and Ryley became the business centres — not to forget the "good ole Eaton's catalogue".

Mrs. Ogrodnick passed away in 1972 at the age of eighty-one. She was predeceased by her daughter, Mary Rurka in 1941, and her son Michael in 1978.

The children all live in the Holden area; they are: Mary, married to Harry Rurka (see the Harry Rurka story).

Anne married B. J. Rurka and they have two daughters, Olga and Susan.

Mike remained a bachelor. Throughout his lifetime he took on the head of the family duties after his father died. He farmed and ran an elevator at Haight for years, followed by many years of work on the county road maintainer.

Paul remained with his mother on the home place and continues to farm there.

Dora married Mike Bilyk.

Joe married Doris Nord.

Barbara married Steve Kozack.

Jean married Walter Romaniuk.

Margaret married Hilmer Olsen.

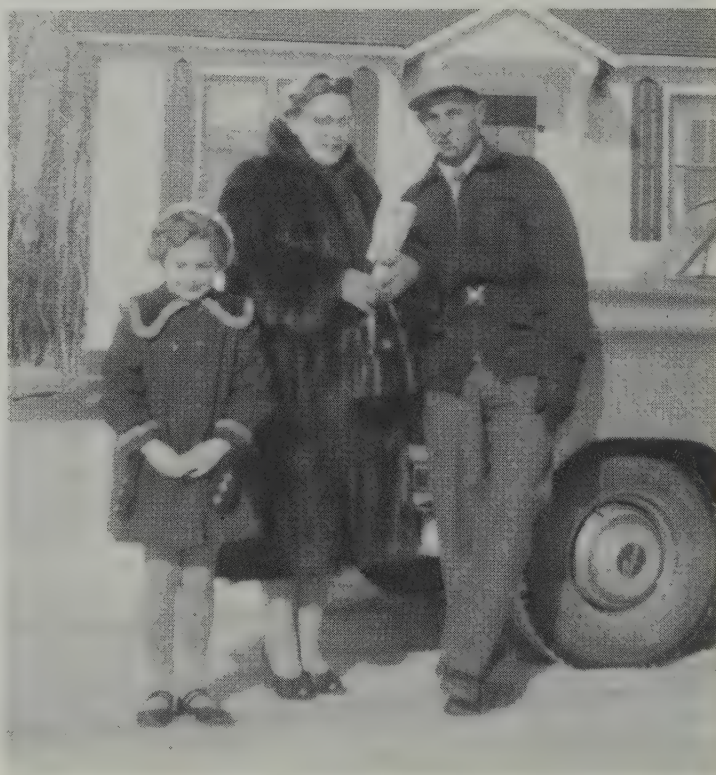
Alice married Michael Mulick.

Their respective stories are elsewhere in the book.

Ogrodnick, Joe and Doris

Joe Ogrodnick was born in 1917 at Haight, Alberta, the third son of Dmitro and Michaelina Ogrodnick. Besides the good practical experience in the art of mixed farming he received at home, he took his grade schooling at Thule (abode of the Ice Kings) a rural school established in 1902.

As fate would have it, many years later in 1939, a young lady by the name of Doris Nord, daughter of Edgard and Agnes Nord came to teach at that same school. Joe and Doris met at the wedding of Clara and Johnnie Kozak that same fall. Two years later they were married.



Doris and Joe Ogrodnick with daughter Beverly.

Usually a lady's teaching career ended when she changed her name. Not so for Doris. This was war-time and every last teacher in the country was pressed into service and "frozen" there regardless of age or marital status. So Doris continued to teach and Joe took a position with the C.N.R. section crew at Haight.

In the spring of 1945, Joe began farming on his own. He had inherited from the family estate, the NW ¼ 30-50-16-W4 located one mile south of the Hamlet of Haight. Joe immediately built a small house, a chicken coop, and drilled a deep well. Lack of money forced Joe in that late point in modern time to build a barn of log-straw construction. This self-designed masterpiece was indeed a comfort to Joe's small herd in winter — summer was a different story. Some architectural defect caused it to leak when it rained — and forty days and nights thereafter. "The Flood" was replaced by a nice hip-roofed barn in 1950.

Meanwhile Doris's career ended abruptly in June

After completing eight years at Haight she joined the staff of Holden School, where she enjoyed the fellowship of her colleagues and the respect of the many pupils she related to over the last twenty-two years of her career. At salary negotiating times Doris often got the kidding remark, "Oh, so they're robbing Joe to pay Doris again!" She jokingly refers to her career which ended March 15, 1976, as the one that spanned thirty-five years and fifteen minutes — she made sure of retiring on full pension. During this period Doris studied to obtain her B.Ed. (1971), helped raise their daughter to maturity and assisted Joe with the farming operations where possible.

From day one Joe set out to improve his farm. Seldom a day went by without proof or sign that progress was being made. Monetary rewards took second place to the pleasure and satisfaction of a job well done. Though handicapped healthwise, Joe labored to keep his livestock contented with good feed and housing. Anything, machinery, buildings, fences, you name it; if it could take paint, Joe painted it. His well clipped lawns and miniature farmstead add up to his pride and joy. In preparation for semi-retirement, he has taken to restoring old machinery, a hobby he will have more time for when he hands over the farming to his son-in-law and grandsons.

Their daughter Beverly completed her high school at Holden and took a hairdressing course. In 1963 she married Henry Matoga of Grassland, Alberta. They raised three sons, Todd, Bryce and Jason (deceased 1975). Bev and Henry spend every moment off work hours with their boys in pursuit of some sport, be it curling, hockey, baseball or skiing. They have travelled widely as a family and plan to do more.



Joe's Holstein herd.

of '45 when a bout with a ruptured appendix kept her hospitalized for nearly a month. The school was taken over by a young lady, Ethel Brown, who had just completed her Normal Schooling.

Doris was now free to go farming with Joe. In a short time they brought forth what they still consider their greatest production, a cute baby girl, Beverly Ann born in 1946.

In less than six months after Beverly's arrival, Doris was back in the teaching service, having been persuaded by the superintendent and trustees that Haight Hall was an excellent classroom facility and that thirty local children needed an education. (See Haight School Story).

Doris took on the task and never looked back.



Henry, Beverly, Todd, Bryce Matoga, Doris and Joe Ogrodnick.

Ogrodnick, Steve

Steve Ogrodnick grew up on the farm near Holden. He completed grade ten and was drafted into the army during World War II, and served overseas for three and a half years.

When he returned he met and married Anne Lockmanec in Vernon, in 1946. They came back to Holden and lived on the farm with the Ogrodnick family for two years. Their first daughter, Adrienne was born in 1947. In 1949 they moved to a farm near Viking where three more children were born; Vern in 1951, Valerie in 1957 and Adele in 1961. They moved to Victoria in 1966 where Steve worked at Maplewood Poultry until he retired.

He is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, He enjoys playing horseshoe, having won trophies in tournaments.

Adrienne married Dennis Lait (R.C.M.P.) in 1969. They have one child, Lori, and presently live at Field, B.C. Vern married Alice Scatlon in 1972. They have two children, Melissa and Aaron, and live in Port Alberni where Vern works for Safeway. Valerie married Michael Dunne, a teacher, in 1977. They live in Victoria. Adele works for the Ministry of Health in Victoria and lives at home. Debbie was born in 1968 and is attending school. Anne Ogrodnick is presently employed at Woolco in Victoria.

Ogrodnick, William

William was born in 1915 and attended Holmdene School until he completed grade nine, and high school at Holden. He graduated from the Camrose Normal School in the spring of 1937, and taught his first school at Northern Star during 1937-38; with enrollment of thirty eight students, grades one to eight, and a salary of \$750.00 including janitorial duties. Then he taught at these schools: Holmdene 1938-42, Kinsella 1942-43, Togo 1943-51, and then moved to Holden in the fall of 1951 and taught until retirement, serving in the capacity of vice-principal for two years and as principal for nine years; making a total of 38 years of which 21 were in administration. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education degree in 1957. While teaching, William was the president of the Alberta Teachers' Association in the Beaver Local, president of the Beaver Local Principals' Association, five years as a secretary-treasurer of the Beaver Local Alberta Teachers' Association, and is presently a life member of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

William married Mary, the daughter of Peter and Myrtle Rurka, in 1942, and to this union were born four children. Vivian has a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta, and taught school for five years. She married Leo Broks, has a family of three sons, and resides in Sherwood Park. Son Terry, a graduate from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, and is the manager of the Nor-Pipe Construction Ltd., in Ontario. He is married and has a family of two daughters



Wm. Ogrodnick family: Wayne, Vivian, Terry, Mary, Gregory and William.

and resides at North Bay, Ontario. Son, Gregory, a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, is the president and owner of the Gentry's Clothing Shops in Edmonton and Sherwood Park. He is married and resides in Leduc. Son, Wayne, attended the University of Alberta for three semesters in the Faculty of Engineering, and is presently registered at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in the mineralogy department.

William and Mary have always been active in the church and community affairs. Mary is the president of the Ukrainian Ladies Aid, sings in the Holden and Vegreville church choirs, and she sang with her parents in the Borschiw choir until her marriage and during the nine years that they lived at Togo. Mary has worked with the Regional Fair committee, spent three years on the Further Education Council, assisted the Agricultural Society, and is participating in the religious instructions in the Holden school. Mary was instrumental in designing the logo for the Holden and District Chamber of Commerce which is used as a design for a sign along Highway #14 near Holden. William has been a financial secretary for the Ukrainian Church at Holden for twenty eight years, a president of the Rectory Committee for the four parishes, and has been on the executive since its inception in 1963. He has been the president of the former Bruce Provincial Social Credit constituency for fifteen years, a charter member of the Knights of Columbus for thirty one years, and a Grand Knight during 1959-60, an Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is presently the secretary-treasurer. William was the finance chairman for three years for the Holden and District Recreational Complex, and was instrumental in assisting in organizing the first canvas for funds and the fall carnivals. He assisted with the addition to the Holden

Community Hall, and was the chairman of the committee in organizing the youth walkathon from Holden to Bruce, a member of the Holden Curling Club for eighteen years, a member of the Holden and District Chamber of Commerce serving in the various offices including the presidency.

Presently, in semi-retirement, William operates an office in Holden as an agent and salesman for insurance and real estate.

Olberg, Andrew

submitted by Norma Jean Disney (gr. granddaughter)

Andrew and Jergine (Gina) Olberg came to the Holden area about 1903. They sold their land in Beltrami County, Minnesota in 1903 and probably emigrated that same year. In 1906 Andrew became a naturalized Canadian and homesteaded the NE¼-30-48-15.



Olberg family: Gordon, Myrtle, Alice Sizer, and Roy.

The Olberg family included eight children: — Andor (Andy), Chris, Inga (May), George, Jennie (Jean), Henry, Annie and Agnes (Tillie). I cannot tell too much about the early years, but I will relate what I have learned about the family while compiling my family history.

Andor married Rose Turvey and resided in the Tofield area. Two children, Ethel and Harry, were born before the family moved to the Padstow, Alberta area. There Dick, George and Lois were born. Andor passed away in 1940.

I believe Chris, who never married, lived his adult life in California. He did make at least one return visit to Holden before his death in 1944 in California. I am told that Chris played a pretty mean fiddle and probably was the entertainment at many parties.



George Olberg during 1940's.

Inga married Samuel Fitzsimmons and they had a family of eight: Ann, Harold, Clarence, Cecil, Wilbur, Stanley, Marge and Myrtle. This family left Alberta and moved to the U.S. about 1924, finally settling in California, where Inga died in 1964.

George, my grandfather, married Alice Mary Sizer in 1916. Alice was the daughter of Elam and Emma Sizer. George and Alice lived on the S.W.-4-48-15, where they raised their family — Roy, Gordon and Myrtle. In 1951 Alice and George sold their farm to John Stokowski and moved to Edmonton. Carpentry work kept George busy in his semi-retirement years. They liked to go fishing and many a weekend saw them at nearby lakes. George passed away in 1962 and Alice in 1974. Son Roy and his wife Erie live in Victoria, B.C.; son Gordon and his wife Minnie reside at Rocky Mountain House; and daughter Myrtle and husband Wally Marks make Fallon, Nevada their home.

Jean and her first husband Len Dailey raised a family of two daughters, Malvina and Mildred in the Holden-Tofield area. Jean was married to Jack Applin and lived in Edmonton. Jean passed away in 1965.

Henry was married to Ethel Vaughn and they lived in Washington, U.S.A. Their family consisted of William, Henry, Olive, Franklin and Effie.

Annie married George Hicks. They had no children. Annie died about 1955 in Manitoba.

Agnes married Fred Cooper and lived the early years of married life in Edmonton where Violet was

born. In 1921 they moved to California and Grace was born. Agnes was killed in an auto accident in 1931.

Andrew Olberg died in 1911 at Revelstoke, B.C. where I suspect he had gone to work.

Gina married three times after Andrew's death and spent her later years with her children and grandchildren in California. She passed away in 1936.

Olesek, Felix and Frances

by Annie Tchir

Felix Olesek came to Canada from Poland in 1911. He worked at railroad building and digging ditches by hand for water works in Calgary. During the war (1914-18) work was scarce so Felix settled on a homestead in the Kirriemuir area. He had planned to bring his wife Frances and his small son Frank to Canada but this was not possible because of the war. He farmed alone until 1923 when he managed to bring them to Canada. Two more children were born to them, Annie and Charles.



Felix Olesek family: Felix, Frank, Charles Olesek, Fred and Annie (Olesek) Tchir, Frances Olesek.

They lived near Kirriemuir until 1935 when after a number of years of crop failures due to drought and dust storms that made drifts of soil like drifts of snow after a winter blizzard, the family moved to the Viking area. The Viking area first north and then south was home until 1945 when they moved to the Bruce area.

By this time the family had grown up. Frank stayed with his parents. Charles went to Edmonton where he married Pearl Hrabec of the Ryley district. He is a mail carrier. They have one child, Jody-Anne.

Annie upon finishing Normal School went to teach at the Scona School south of Holden. There she married Fred Tchir of that district. They have four children.

Felix and Frances decided to retire in Holden so they bought a house at 5027-50 Ave. from Mrs. Symbaluk. They moved to Holden in 1958.

Frank stayed on the farm and got married to Martha Patterson. They have no children. Frank and Martha are now retired and live in Mannville.

Mrs. Olesek did not live long to enjoy retirement. In 1960 she suffered a fatal heart attack. Felix stayed on in the house, looking after house and garden until the age of 90 when he suffered a stroke. He could no longer live alone so Fred and Annie Tchir moved in with him to take care of him. He lived to age 93.

Both Felix and Frances Olesek are buried in the Holden Cemetery.



Grandpa Olesek.

Olsen, Even and Caroline

by Rev. Osborne Olsen

Even and Caroline Olsen arrived in Holden in 1916. They had just moved from Edmonton with their two small children. They were among some of the earliest pioneers, and they immediately established residence in a small rental house west of the town school. Later on they purchased a two room house on a hill, adjacent to the United Church. With an increase in the family, Even remodeled it and constructed a two storey house that still stands as a landmark near the centre of the town. The Olsens' lived here for approximately 30 years, and raised a family of seven children. These early and pioneer



Even and Carolyn Olsen.

days in Holden were sometimes vigorous, but exceptionally challenging. There were some exciting times, that to this day, has left a legacy with the family of many fond and happy memories.

Even was born in Lillehammar, Norway in 1882, and as a young adventurous fellow, he decided to immigrate to Canada, and settled in at Edmonton in 1912. Trained as a skilled carpenter in Norway he pursued his trade in Edmonton, and built up several blocks of residential homes. When he arrived at Holden the opportunities were unlimited, and in time had a crew of ten to fifteen young immigrants working for him. He built up a substantial number of residential homes in the town as well as commercial and industrial buildings. His work expanded to the rural areas, where the farmers had a demand for huge barns and large homes. His professional services were soon very much in demand within the 40 mile radius of Holden, to the many small towns. In later years, he expanded into real estate and owned considerable property in and around Holden.

Even met his wife Caroline Swanson in Edmonton in 1913, and shortly they were united in marriage. Caroline was also born in Norway, a place called Trondheim, in 1893. She had planned to come across to Canada on the ill-fated Titanic in April of that year, but as fortune would have it, she decided to reserve passage on another ship, six months later. In 1912 she arrived in Quebec, and immediately booked the train to Wisconsin, and visited with some of her family, before she finally decided to settle in Edmonton the year of 1913.

During the many years they lived at Holden, the Olsens' were both very active in community affairs. Even was a member of the town council for 21 years, in charge of public works, with jurisdiction over the fire dept. and the police enforcements. He also functioned as the deputy mayor of this little town.



Even Olsen, Osborne, Ozzie, Hilmer, Agnes, Muriel and Vera.

As head of the public works, Even's obsession was to make Holden the "No. 1" town, east and west on the Edmonton-Wainwright line. But his first priorities and special interests were to build up recreational facilities, for the kids, the youth and the older people. Consequently, he built the skating rink, the town hall as a centre, helped spearhead the curling rink and fair grounds for promoting sports. He encouraged skiing for those who were interested. He picked the youth off the street and put them to work. He employed people who were destitute and had large families to feed and to clothe. Both he and Caroline were "people's persons" who took people into their home and befriended the less fortunates, and helped out many who were in dire circumstances. Even always went to bat for the underdog. He fought the bureaucratic system. When invalided people were evicted from their homes, due to taxes, he would quietly build a shelter for them and move them by horse and stoneboat in the dead of night, so they could live out their remaining few years in comfort. Their white steepled church meant something to them, they sought to live out its meaning and purpose in their everyday life affairs. Even assisted in building the Lutheran Church, and other churches in various communities. In hard and troubled times they both worked hard to keep the church doors open.

But finally, in 1945 the Olsens' moved back to Edmonton and took up permanent residence and eventual retirement. Even passed away, full of years and a fulfilling life, in 1968, at the age of 86 years.

Caroline is now residing at the Dickensfield

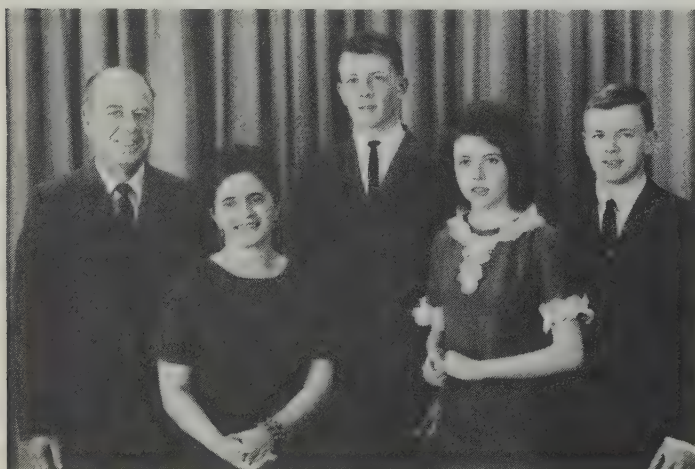
Nursing Home, in Edmonton. Her seven children are still living. She has frequent visits of family and friends. But she also has 20 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren, which help to occupy her mind and her time.

The two eldest children, Vera and Osborne, were born in Edmonton, with the remaining five born at Holden. All the children attended the Holden School, and they all continue to reminisce on the many exciting and wonderful experiences of their childhood days. As per-information: Vera (Myers) resides in Kamloops, B.C.; Osborne, is pastor at Burnaby, and lives in Surrey; Agnes (Petaske), lives in Edmonton; Hilmer, in business in Holden (history to follow); Ozzie, is manager of a Vancouver Travel Agency, and lives in Surrey; Muriel (Campbell) resides in Kamloops; and Clarence, is Manager of the former "Olsen Equipment Ltd., and a large merged company, and lives in Edmonton.

Olsen, Hilmer, C.

Hilmer, was born in Holden in 1919. He attended school in the "old brick school house", but remembers when he was about 10 or 12 years old, attending classes in the Masonic Hall for a short time while an addition was being added to "the brick".

Hilmer recalls the depression years when everyone was expected to pitch in and help keep the family clothed and fed. Milking cows at Olsen's Dairy which was located in the area back of Pete Ogonoski's place, kept him out of mischief and Hilmer has only to look across the street from his service station now and see the old barn which sits intact on Bruce Budd's lot. Henry Hanson had it moved here and used this to house his beautiful Clydesdales. Also, with his dad, Hilmer did a lot of carpentering, painting, and concrete mixing and pouring in the building of homes and sidewalks — all back-breaking jobs done by hand, of course.



Hilmer Olsen Family: Hilmer, Margaret, Robert, Mona, Douglas about 1965.

As early as possible Hilmer left school and went on his own — working on farms for fifty cents a day plus room and board, except at harvest time, when he received the stupendous rate of two dollars a day.

However, better fortunes were ahead for Hilmer. When North Western Utilities set about to install and repair the gas-line all the way from Edmonton to the Viking gas fields, Hilmer was lucky enough to land a job which was to last for 2½ years.

World War II was now upon us and Hilmer was drafted into the army only to be rejected for health reasons. Then in 1940, he volunteered for the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and was accepted. Just a few days before being sent to Camp Borden he came down with pneumonia, landed in hospital, and in a few weeks he was discharged — so ended his military career.

Upon returning to Holden, he was employed for a short time at the P. Burns Creamery and from there he transferred to the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool where he was in charge of the milk department.

By this time everyone was talking about the Alaska Highway and the money — piles of money that could be made. So like the "men who moiled for gold" Hilmer answered the call of the North. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Joe Petaske, he bought a truck (financed) and took off for Dawson Creek from where they would haul gasoline to all points north. Hilmer's tales of survival in this wilderness deep-freeze, will hold you spellbound for hours.

In 1943 he returned to Holden to start up a trucking business, hauling grain and coal. To supplement his income he bought a brush cutter and cleared land in the area extending from Holden to Mundare.

Hilmer married Margaret Ogrodnick, a local girl who before her marriage worked at the creamery and the hardware. In 1950, Hilmer, with George Armstrong as his partner, took over the U.F.A. Bulk Fuel Agency. This operation was conducted from a little building where fuel was sold by the barrel and weighed on a scale. It wasn't till 1960 that a modern gas station was erected and business took an upward leap. George Armstrong relinquished his share of the business in 1970 to make his home in Toronto, and that left Hilmer and Margaret to run the business till 1981. Hilmer in his retirement continues to operate the tire shop and service station, the bulk fuel agency being taken over by Bert and Bobbie Schweitzer.

Hilmer and Margaret raised three children: Douglas married Judy Rurka. They have two sons, Christopher and Timmie. They live at Slave Lake where Doug is self-employed at Olsen Equipment and Repair Ltd., and Judy teaches school.

Bob is Sergeant with the R.C.M.P. at K. Div.

Headquarters, Edmonton. He married Jacqueline Van Ruskenveld, a R.N.A. They with their two sons Paul and Scott, live at St. Albert, Alberta. Bob and Jacqueline experienced several years of service in the far North.

Mona, a R.N.A., married Bob Oswald. After spending several years in Germany with the Canadian Militia they returned to make their home at Sylvan Lake. They have two small daughters, Carissa and Laurel.

Hilmer and Margaret are members of the Holden Lutheran Church, from which they have received the strength and inspiration to carry on their daily lives.

They plan to retire soon, but will definitely remain living in Holden where their friends and family are — and they are happy and proud to admit that living in Holden has been enjoyable.

Olson, Andrew

Andrew Olie Olson arrived in the Northwest Territories of Canada in 1901 to take up a homestead on the NE 34-49-16. He journeyed the seventy five miles from the nearest town of Wetaskiwin. Upon arrival he built a shack for a home in the wilderness. This same year he returned to South Dakota, U.S.A. Here he married Albertine Caspara Grosland in 1902. Immediately the newly married couple set out

for their homestead in Canada. With them they brought three horses (Colonel, Daisy and Queen) purchased in the Black Hills of South Dakota, one cow, a walking plow, some other pieces of farming machinery and some household effects.

Andrew was born in Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.A., although his family was originally from Volish County, Norway. He had ten brothers and sisters, Arthur, Alvin, Theodore, Alfred, Olaus, Dora, Lena, Annie, Ida and Amelia. Andrew's parents farmed just across the border in Albee, South Dakota.

Two other Olsons joined Andrew in the Holden district. Two of his sisters Mrs. Edward Christianson (Annie) and Mrs. Anton Anderson (Amelia) homesteaded the same year.

Andrew's bride, Albertine Grosland came to South Dakota from Hokkesund Eiker, Norway with her parents and two sisters Anna and Helen and two brothers Arne and Christian. Her folks Hans and Caroline Grosland followed her and Andrew to the Holden district a few years later. Here they farmed even though an accident with horses and a mower caused an injury to Hans' leg which resulted in its amputation, pioneer style. The leg was removed, while grandpa Hans lay on the dining room table, by Dr. Allan of Edmonton and Dr. Farrell of Holden.

Andrew and Albertine's early homesteading was trying yet rewarding. The first few years they shot rabbits, ducks and prairie chickens for meat and trapped muskrats for which they received ten cents a pelt for cash income. Their home consisted of a one room board cabin to which they added another log cabin room. A large garden supplied vegetables while a rhubarb patch and wild fruit also were greatly enjoyed.

In the early years, Andrew made journeys to Wetaskiwin for supplies. These took a week to complete, by wagon or sleigh. During this time Albertine remained at the homestead. This was a frightening experience for her inasmuch as her only neighbors were local Indians and an occasional Northwest Mounted Police who stopped by.

In 1909 Arne Grosland opened a store about half a mile west of the present village of Holden. When the rail arrived at Vegreville, it became the Olson's Major shopping center. Grain was hauled to Vegreville by wagon and horse, wheat was taken to the mill to make a year's supply of flour, cream of wheat, bran and shorts. Of course when the railway was built through Holden and the United Grain Growers built an elevator, grain was hauled there, only three and a half miles away. Andrew was an original member of the U.G.G. Gradually the farm was developed, with more acres being broken by



Andrew Olson family: Back Row: Agnes Andrew and Irvin. Middle Row: Albertine and Francis. Front Row: Melvin and Russell.

horses and plow until in 1927, when a 15-30 Twin City tractor was purchased. Horses were still used to a large extent in the farming operation which grew with the purchase of three more quarters of land.

A large number of horses, cattle and hogs were raised. Cream was sold or churned into butter at home. Chickens were kept for eggs and meat, too.

Life became more pleasant with the building of a large two storey home in 1909 costing the huge sum of \$1200.00. In 1910 a log barn for cows was built and in 1915 an addition made of lumber was added for horses. Both the house and barn are still standing and in use on the farm today.

In 1914 a model T Ford was purchased. This was replaced by a Chevrolet in 1927 and another new Chevrolet in 1935. Andrew's last car was a 1940 Hudson.

In the beginning the Olsons attended church services held in the Martins School, and later they were members of the Holden Lutheran Church. Albertine belonged to the Lutheran Ladies' Aid.

The Olson farm saw the coming of five children. Agnes was born in 1903, Irwin in 1905, Francis in 1909, Russell in 1912 and Melvin in 1917. All grew up sharing in the hard work of the farm. The children went to Holmdene and Holden Schools.



Bill and Agnes Phillips.

Agnes married William J. Phillips in 1928 and lived on a farm one mile south of the home place until 1940 when they moved to British Columbia. In 1981 she moved back to Holden.

Irwin married Stena Oberg in 1930 and lived on a farm a mile east of home until his death in 1941. They had one son, Lawrence.

Francis married Violet Davis in 1933. (See their story).

Russell married Marie Lawson in 1943. (See their story).

Melvin married Irene Burnstad in 1942. (See their story).

Andrew passed away in 1949 and Albertine in 1951.

Olson, Francis and Violet

I, Francis Orville, son of Andrew and Albertine Olson was born at the homestead three miles north of Holden. It was very different growing up in those days compared to now. I worked at home helping on the farm because as time went by Dad bought more land, to be exact 480 acres more and thus there was a lot of clearing bush and breaking to do to get the land ready for grain farming.



Back Row: Allan and Dwayne. Front Row: Francis and Violet Olson.

In 1929, I went to a barn dance at the Amil Zwierschke farm and there met my future wife Violet Josephine Davis of Bruce. We were married four years later in 1933 and lived one mile east of Holden, farming for Kenneth James for two years.

Times were very hard in the 1930's so I farmed and worked in and around Holden. During this time our two sons were born, Allan and Dwayne.

In 1942 I started to work for the P. Burns Creamery in Holden, first driving the cream truck, then making butter, grading and testing cream. In 1945 the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool of Edmonton bought the creamery so I continued working for them.

We bought a home south of the school and also had a quarter of land north of Holden.

I was a member of the Holden Elks Club and Violet of the Royal Purple until 1948, when I was transferred as manager of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool creamery to Radway, Alberta. We lived there for seven years. In 1954 I was transferred as manager to the N.A.D.P. creamery at Andrew, Alberta. Violet worked as office secretary for the N.A.D.P. there. We lived there for twenty years and in 1974 we retired and built a new home in Stony Plain where we now reside.

Allan our eldest son is principal of Stony Plain Elementary School and also has a farm west of Stony Plain where he raises beef cattle. His wife is the former Virginia Taras and they have two boys, Mark in University and David is 15.

Dwayne is an electrical technician and computer operator with the federal government in Ottawa. His wife is the former Lillian Hubschmid. They have two children, Brenda at University and Andrew who works for the government.

Olson, Halvor and Helga by Harriet (Fjellstrom) Giebelhaus

Halvor, who is Helene Kjosness's brother, moved to the Holden area in 1906. He and his wife, Helga, farmed north of the Paul Kjosness farm. After a few years they moved to Minnesota.

Olson, Isaac

Isaac Olson and his wife Johanna Madison came from Malmo, Sweden to the United States. Isaac had been a harness and shoe maker in the old country and carried on this trade for a time in Kansas, then decided to go farming at Aocoma, South Dakota. After seven very dry years they decided to move to Alberta where the rainfall was greater and there was an abundance of wood and water.

The Olson family moved to Olds, Alberta in 1902 where they rented land for four years.

In 1906 they came to the Fairview district south-east of Holden with their six children, Willie, Anna, Mabel, Carl, Pearl and Della.

Isaac took a homestead on the SW ¼ 6-48-15. Willie homesteaded on the NW 6-48-15. Carl bought the next quarter north, SW 7-48-15 a few years later after finishing school.

The four younger children went to the Fairview



Isaac and Johanna Olson, 1935.

School, with Pearl and Della finishing their schooling in Holden.

Isaac and Johanna Olson sold their farm in 1925 to the John Larsen family of North Dakota and retired on an acreage at Richmond, B.C.

Isaac Olson passed away in 1944 at the age of 91 years and Mrs. Olson passed away in 1954 at 92 years.

Carl Olson sold his land in 1927 to Charles Sizer and moved to an acreage near his folks place.

Willie Olson married Carrie Sizer (see William Olson story).

Anna married Jack McLaughlin and they had one daughter June.

Mabel married Dick Sizer and they had three daughters, Gladys, Zella and Gurene.

Della married Claus Rude and they had one son George, of Riverside, California.

Pearl married Lawrence Williams and still lives in Vancouver, near her three daughters Dorothy, Barbara and Joan.

Carl still lives in Vancouver near his sons, Donald, Allen and Robert.

Olson, Lars and Blanche

Lars was born in Norway on the island of Karmoy in 1901. He and his brother Christian and sisters Olga, Anna and Louise, with his parents Knud and Sena Olson and his grandparents, Kristian and Elia-sina Weltzen immigrated to Canada in 1903. They settled in the Skudesness area.

Blanche Jeglum was born in South Dakota in 1904. She and her sisters Pauline and Gladys and her brother Horace, along with her parents Halvor and Ingeborg Jeglum moved to the Wang district near Wetaskiwin in 1914.



Lars Olson family. Back Row: Glen, Kay Coombs, Jim, and Bernice Wick.

Lars attended school at Likeness and Bawlf High School, then Camrose Normal School in 1922, where he obtained his teaching certificate. He then returned to teach at the Likeness School. Subsequent schools were: Hartland, Twin Lake, Cadogan, Salt Lake, Gladstone, McKenzie, and Holden.

Lars and Blanche were married in 1924. Their children are Bernice, Kay, Glenn and Jim. One son Stanley died in infancy.

Lars enjoyed participating in all aspects of community life. He was instrumental in forming the Lakeshore-McKenzie Calf Club, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge. He was always interested in sports, especially softball and baseball. He played for years himself, and then enjoyed teaching good sportsmanship to his students.

Lars was very active in the Alberta Teachers' Association from the time of its beginnings. He served as provincial president, served on the provincial salary negotiating board, on the teachers' retirement fund committee, was secretary of Central East Alberta Convention Association, president of the Local A.T.A. and many times delegate to the Annual General Meeting. He was known throughout the organization as "Mr. A.T.A." He was a member of Holden Elks, and the Agricultural Society. He served as Mayor of Holden in 1964 and 1965, and principal of Holden School from 1964 to 1966.



Lars and Blanche Olson at Lar's retirement party in 1966.

Blanche was a member of United Church Women, Royal Purple, United Church Choir and the Women's Missionary Society and Friendship groups. She served as pianist for United Church and the Royal Purple.

Bernice Olson married Arnold Wick. Their children are Blair, Kerrie Lynne, Darryl, Craig, and Barry. Kay Olson married Ronald Coombes. Their children are Randy, Janice, Jerry, Rhonda and Kathi. One daughter Lisa, died at the age of sixteen months. Glenn married Lorna Almrud. They had one son, Marty. Glenn later married Janice Jordan. Their children are David, Kirsten, Susan and Kristopher Lars. Jim married Doris Vikse. They had one son Greg. Jim later married Lorrie Stabn. Their children are Dale and Kim. All the families live in the Edmonton area.

Blanche and Lars lived in Holden from 1949 until their passing. Blanche passed away in 1974. Lars married Margaret Robertson in 1975. He died in 1976.

Olson, Melvin

Melvin was born in 1917 and spent his entire life on the farm. He attended Holmdene and Holden Schools where his only mode of transportation was on horseback.

He married Irene Burnstad of Round Hill in 1942. A terrible blizzard blew in that evening forcing the bridal couple and fifteen members of the family to spend the night at the church. Several guests found refuge at nearby farm homes. Next day good neighbors provided sleigh rides to Dodds and Round Hill enabling many to board the train, while others did chores and various deeds for the stranded.



Irene and Melvin Olson, 1942.

They were blessed with four children. Carol married Leo Rurka of Tofield. Marlene married Noel Brown of Slave Lake. Dennis married Linda Juba and they live at Spruce Grove. Linda married Tom Sabroski and they live on the former Lars Petersen farm. Grandchildren are: Dean and Shannon Rurka; Natasha, Nicole and Kelly Brown; Erin and Ryan Sabroski; Michelle and Bradley Olson.

Melvin and brother Russell worked together in



Linda, Dennis, Marlene and Carol Olson.

farming operations until Melvin passed away in 1980.

Irene still resides on the homestead. Family and neighbors are so good she isn't considering moving away.

Olson, Russell and Marie

Russell was born in 1912 on the Olson homestead, the fourth member of the Olson family. He married Marie (nee Lawson) of Tofield in 1943 and to this union were born Elaine and Maynard. Elaine married Rueben Grinde of Holden and they have three children, Kent, Karen and Travis. Maynard married Deborah Diseralis of Ryley and they live in Holden.

Marie worked several years at the Holden Telephone Exchange and the Vegreville Health Unit sub-office. Russell farmed in partnership with his brother Melvin until Melvin passed away. Today Russell and Marie still reside on the SE¼ 3-50-16 and operate a mixed farm with their son Maynard.

Olson, William (Willie)

After Willie Olson and Carrie Sizer were married they lived in Holden from 1912-1915 where Alice and Arthur were born. Willie clerked in Harold Hurum's General Store. One year while the Hurums took a trip back to Norway, Willie and Ben Evenson ran the store.



Carrie Olson and Anna Nelson (Former postmistress of Scona P.O.).

Mr. Hurum was a good man to work for and the Olson family still has some nice gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Hurum, including their wedding present.

Willie and Carrie moved to their farm in 1915 to take up farming. It was on this farm Herbert and Harry were born.

Willie was secretary of Fairview School for a number of years, also a school trustee while the children were in school. He was a member of the Holden Drainage board for a number of years and was one of the founding members of the Alberta Wheat Pool, which he and his sons loyally supported.

In 1924 they managed to get their half section clear of debt, so everything went quite well from then on. Mrs. Olson always had a big garden and raised a lot of turkeys. Between 1932-1940 all the original homestead buildings were torn down and in 1932 the house was replaced with an eight room home complete with its own thirty two volt electric plant and water.

In 1941 son Harry enlisted in the army and saw service overseas for four and a half years. In 1946 he bought his Uncle Dick's farm, which Herbert and Arthur had been renting.

The Olson brothers had a good partnership and built their holdings up to two sections of good producing land, during the last thirty years they farmed.

The Olson brothers have never married, however Alice married Wilfred Jones and they had two sons Vernon and Raymond.

In 1948 Willie and Carrie Olson moved back to Holden to retire, in the former Lila and Hartvig Sorgen home, which they had purchased four years previously.



Wm. and Carrie Olson home.

Carrie still grew a big garden and loved attending the Lutheran and United Church ladies aid groups.

Willie passed away in 1963 at the age of 78. Carrie spent her last two years in Camrose, passing away in 1979 within four months of 90 years.

Harry and Arthur sold their land in 1975 which had been in the Olson family for nearly 70 years to H. Gerow and R. Chetney. This land has since been sold to David and Rueben Grinde.

Harry retired in Holden, taking over his folks home. Arthur retired in Camrose and Herbert is still on his farm.

Alice lives in Edmonton.

Oppen, Albert by Selma Bratrud

Albert Oppen was born at Lake Preston, South Dakota. He came to Canada with his parents, Ole and Lesa Oppen, in 1902. They had thirteen children, seven of whom came to Canada. In 1920 he married Celia Smorlie. They bought the Sherffy place now owned by Grant MacGregor. They farmed there for twenty-five years or more. When they sold the farm to Lazowski, they bought a house and moved to Edmonton.



Mr. and Mrs. Oppen with attendants, Emil Oppen and Rhoda Smorlie, 1920.

Albert and Celia worked hard milking cows and farming with horses. Their home was always open to the young folks of the area. They were among the first ones to have a radio with the earphones. We would go there to listen to Amos and Andy, Ma Perkins, and others. There always was water in the duck pond where we used to skate. We, the young people of those days, have many fond memories of the Albert Oppen home.

Celia was fatally burned from an explosion in their home in Edmonton. She passed away in 1946. Albert sold his house and moved to B.C., where he met and married Theresa Lokken. They had one daughter Leona. She is married and has a daughter. Albert passed away in 1977. His widow still lives in B.C.



Albert Oppen farm.

Osadchuk, Peter by Peter Osadchuk

My parents moved from Wostock to a location north of Holden S½-6-50-15 in 1900. My brother John now lives on this farm. They raised eleven children, six daughters and five sons all living and all were married: Annie (Kwasnisky), Eunice (Zowtiuk), Belle (Cashman), Ellen (Therbaniuk), Mike, Elizabeth (Sautrock), Mary (Walker), Bill, John and Martin. I, Peter was the oldest of the sons.

As the children were growing there were no schools yet, so Father hired the neighbour's daughter to teach Annie, Eunice and myself to read and write, of course in Ukrainian, as there was nobody that knew the English language at that time. In 1910 when the school was built Mother took Eunice and me to school. The teacher, Mr. McCormick, was English speaking. We had never heard a word of English before. He was a real genius. By ways and mean he had managed to teach us so that by Christmas everybody could read, write and talk in English.

Our school never had teachers to teach beyond grade eight so we had to attend school in town where where it was difficult to get room and board. The

town school board charged \$80.00 a year for outside students. Mike and Martin had some training at Vermilion Agriculture College. Elizabeth, Mary, Bill and John attended school in Holden.

Elizabeth rented a room from Mrs. Gorrie (Nichols), and Mary, Bill and John from Alex Shihinski.

As Father wanted me to be a priest, he sent me to preparatory school which I attended for a couple of years and quit — it was not my calling. I attended school in Edmonton for three short terms, finished grade nine and took four months of bookkeeping.

When my father died in 1922, I stayed and helped my mother farm. We had five quarters of land and only one hundred and fifty eight acres cultivated so we decided to increase the acreage. We hired newcomers to do the brushing, pulled big trees with horses and blasted big stumps with dynamite. At first we used eight horses to break and in 1926 we bought a four cylinder McCormick Deering and increased our cultivated acreage to five hundred and fifty acres.

In 1931 I started to farm on my own. A real bumper crop was wiped out by a hailstorm that took a swath from Hay Lakes up to the Saskatchewan border. In 1932 I raised 8,000 bushels of No. 1 wheat and 2,000 bushels of oats on ½ section of land. Wheat was selling at 18¢ per bushel and oats at 6¢.

In 1936 matrimonial fever hit the district. About a dozen couples got married, maybe it was on account of leap year. I got married too, but my marriage did not last long as eight months later in 1937 my wife died of cancer. I married again in 1941, this time to Anne Halabut. We lived together for thirty eight years. We built a modern home and travelled abroad considerably. Annie died of cancer in 1979. I sold my farm and moved to Vegreville, but still operate a quarter section as a suitcase farmer.

There was no church in our district, so early in 1904 settlers got together, decided to build Borschiw Church, elected my father, Sam as chairman and John Slywka as secretary-treasurer. They served on the board for twelve years. The name of the church was St. John the Baptist. The church was extended in 1916 and consecrated in 1917 by Bishop Budka. My grandfather was the first one to be buried in the church cemetery.

In 1911 I saw a big fire burning on the neighbour's farm. Our helper and I ran to see what was burning. Had it not been for us, all the farm buildings would have burned. Luckily it was a quiet day so the fire did not spread fast, even so it burned to within three feet of the house and about five steps from the barn and granaries. The elders were not at home; the boys must have been smoking by the hay stack which also burned. We waited till the fire subsided before leaving.

In my days I was active in farm unions and served as secretary-treasurer for Myroslaw School district for three years and Marconi for four years.

Osadchuk, Sam and Maria by Martin Osadchuk

Sam and Maria Osadchuk came to Canada in 1897 from Western Ukraine from the county (powit) Borschiw and village Peschatentsi. Maria's parents Onofry and Franca Slywka came with them. They landed in Halifax on the fifteenth of April and arrived at Strathcona on the first of May. They filed on their homesteads by Edna north of Lamont. After paying for the homesteads they had two dollars left.



Maria Osadchuk and five sons.

They built a sod cabin and Sam went to work on the railroad for the C.P.R. around Calgary. Having served in the Austrian army with the cavalry for three years, Sam learned to speak German. This was to his advantage. The foreman was German and he gave Sam a better paying job at the C.P.R. yard where he worked till late fall.

While Sam was away Maria and her parents spaded two acres of new land for next year's crop. Sam bought a horse in Calgary and rode home. On the way home he met an Indian leading a fine looking brood mare which he offered to sell for ten dollars. Sam bought the mare and in years she dropped some very fine colts. When he reached Strathcona he bought harness and a wagon and drove home.

During the winter Sam and Onofry hauled logs and cut some up by hand into boards. In spring they built a log house and Sam went back to work for the C.P.R. While he was away Maria and her parents plastered the house with clay and put on a thatched roof. In all, Sam worked for the C.P.R. for two years.



Maria Osadchuk and five daughters (Elizabeth missing).

They raised a family of five sons and six daughters who are still living.

On one occasion an old Indian came for some bread. When he saw that two of the children had measles he told Sam to milk the mare and give it to the children. His advice was taken and in three days the measles disappeared.

The Sam Osadchuk family stayed around Edna for three years but due to the fact that the crops froze every year in that heavy bush district they cancelled their claim and filed on the land that is now farmed by Sam's youngest son John. By that time all the better lands were filed on by a delegation from United States and Germany from the Volga region of Russia.

They built another sod cabin on the new place and a log house the following year. When they moved into the new house the sod cabin was occupied by other families that came from Ukraine, first it was the John Rurka family, then the Paul Deputan family and later by the Zamorsky family.

Sam had horses and machinery by this time and when neighbours Paul Deputan, Paul Komarniski, Peter Komarniski and Harry Bilyk were at work, he broke some land for them so they could get titles to their homesteads. He also hauled freight from Edmonton. Neighbours would catch a ride to the city but had to walk back as there was enough weight on the wagon without passengers. On cold nights on the trail they took turns tending the fire while the rest slept.

Sam was planning to buy a binder but the neighbouring women insisted on cutting the ten acres of wheat with sickles so they could get the wheat for flour. A Mr. Steele threshed the wheat. He owned an outfit that had to be moved by a team of horses or oxen. The machine had no straw blower. Two men moved the straw away with forks.

In 1911, ten neighbours got together and bought a second hand threshing outfit from Orval Cunningham. It had a habit of breaking down during the



Elizabeth and Mary Osadchuk about 1918.

day but come night it would run like a charm. That year winter came early but the crop was in stacks, so all of it was threshed. The snow was deep and stuck and rolled on the wheels of the steamer, so two men were kept busy with bars chipping it off as the steamer moved. The thresher was moved by oxen.

Owen, Percy

Percy Owen was born in Edmonton in 1907. His parents were early settlers in Tofield where he grew up. In 1928 he came to Holden with a fellow by the name of Wilfred Lamont, with whom he went into partnership. They leased the workshop of the Farrell garage from Norman Armstrong. He married Betty Henderson in 1930. To this union was born two sons, Alan and Oliver.

During the "Dirty Thirties" he worked at any job that was available from farming to running the skating rink in town, he also ran a cream route for Burns & Company during the summer.



Martin Meadahl, Chris Tiedemann and Percy Owen, 1942.

In 1936 he started working for Burns as truck driver and plant hand under the management of Bob Newell. He was later transferred to Radway to open a creamery for Burns & Company. He was the manager there for two and a half years. He was then transferred to Holden to take over the management of Burns & Company from Roy Shepard who had been transferred to Camrose. He left Burns & Company after it was taken over by the Dairy Pool.

Looking for greener pasture he went into partnership with his brother-in-law Erling Henderson who was operating a service station on main street in the old Oscar Arnston garage where they obtained the Mercury, Lincoln and Meteor dealership. Later they sold to Stanton and Saboe in 1949.

Percy and Betty took part in town activities. They were both charter members of the Elk's Lodge and O.O.R.P. Percy also served on the town council for two years. He took a keen interest in all sports, and drove the first school bus purchased by the Holden School Division.

They moved to Edmonton in 1949 and went into the construction industry until Percy retired in 1963. Alan and Oliver are still in business in Edmonton.

Percy and Betty celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1980. They have five grandchildren and one great grandson. They spend their winters in California and Arizona.

Ozubko, John

by Helena (Ozubko) Szott

John Ozubko, also known as Ozipko, was born in 1877 in Stubno, Galicia, Austria. He married Euphemia Harasym, who was born in 1879. They came to



John and Euphemia Ozubko in 1942.

Canada with their two children Maria and Anne in 1903.

They homesteaded in the Innisfree, Alberta area, and lived with friends while John built a log shack which Euphemia then plastered with clay. To earn some money John worked on the railway at Nanton, Alberta, being away from home for as long as a month at a time, as there was no transportation. He brought home staples, such as flour, and sugar, while his wife was able to get milk for the children from a neighbor.

In about 1913, Maria and Anne worked in the Innisfree hotel for 50¢ a day. They did not attend school but learned the English language on their own. While they lived there John served on the municipal council.

John Ozubko sold his farm in 1918 and moved his family to the farm south of Holden, (later known as the McLeod place). There were now eight children; Maria, Anne, Joe, Katie, Jennie, John, Bill and Mike. Katie, Jennie and John attended Vermillion Valley School. They farmed here for about two years, then moved to some C.P.R. land SE-1-48-16, which he rented for sometime. Here, two more children were born, Alexander and Helena. The four youngest children attended Scona School.

In about 1929, John bought NE-36-47-16 where they lived until their retirement. Euphemia Ozubko passed away in 1957 at the age of 78, and John in 1965 at the age of 88.

Maria, their oldest daughter married Willie Richards. They lived in Tofield while Willie worked on the gas line being laid from Viking to Edmonton. He later had a feed mill in Tofield. He then bought a feed mill in Holden which he operated for a number of years, grinding feed for farmers at \$1.00 to \$1.50 a wagon box load. They sold the feed mill and moved to Edmonton where Willie worked at the U.S. Army



Peter and Anna Narbeske, 1913.

base and Marie did domestic work. Later they moved to Banff where they lived in semi-retirement until their passing. Willie Richards saw service during W.W. II.

Anne married Peter Narbeski. Peter worked for farmers in the Holden area and was foreman of a crew during the construction of the Holden Drainage ditch in 1919. They then lived in Tofield, where he worked at the coal mine, also Edmonton and at Manning, Alberta, where Peter was maintenance man in his son's drug store. They are now retired, living in Edmonton. Peter at 86 years of age and Anne at 80, still doing their own gardening and housework. They celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1978. They had two children, Ed and Adeline.

Katie married Sam Kostyk. He also worked at the Tofield coal mine and on the gas pipeline. They later



Maria and Willie Richards, 1954.

moved to Edmonton where Katie ran a boarding house and she worked as a cook at the university. Her husband Sam worked at the U.S. Army base and as an orderly at the Royal Alex Hospital. He passed away in 1963. They had two sons, Allen and Eddie. Katie, now Mrs. Letwinowich, is residing in a seniors' lodge in Edmonton.

Joe was born in 1905. He worked in the Tofield Coal Mine and then came home to farm with his dad. He remained here until his passing in 1963 at the age of 58.



Joe Ozubko and Peter Narbeske.

John born in 1911, farmed with his dad for a time, then worked for a farmer near Heisler. He then joined Willie Richards, operating the Holden Feed Mill. When the mill was sold he moved to Edmonton where he was employed by Woodland Dairies (now Palm Dairies) for twenty five years. In 1945 he married Ann Nichyporuk of Boyle. They had three children: Jerry, Shirley and Carol. John passed away in 1979 at the age of 68. Ann and the children all reside in Edmonton.

Jennie left home at an early age and worked at a grocery and clothing store in Vegreville for ten years. During 1943-45 she served in the airforce, stationed at Kingston, Ontario. After the war she joined the Edmonton Symphony where she played the Viola and performed with the University opera. She then worked as librarian with the Symphony for eighteen years. Later she was employed with the Workmen's Compensation Board, until her retirement. Single, she resides at a seniors' lodge in Edmonton.

Bill worked at home for a time, then worked for local farmers, earning enough money to buy a 1927 Chev. car. He then went to Edmonton where he was employed with Pool Construction for many years. In 1945 he married Ann Skorochid of Haight. She worked at several wholesales in Edmonton. Bill later worked as maintenance man at NAIT until he retired. He has his own orchestra and plays for weddings and dances. Bill and Ann have two children; Elmer and Betty and reside in Edmonton.

Mike stayed home and helped on the farm for many years, and then served in the army during W.W. II. He married in 1944 and operated a bulk service station at Ardrossan, Alberta. He had two daughters; Marlene and Barbara. After selling his business he moved to Edmonton and was employed with McCoshams, and at a wholesale warehouse until his retirement in 1982. He and his daughter Barbara reside at Alberta Beach.

Alexander was born an albino; his hair, eye brows and eye lashes were white as snow. He died at the age of twelve of a ruptured appendix.

Helena, the youngest of the Ozubko family married John Szott (see their story).

Ozubko, John and Annie and Family

John was the second child in a family of ten born to Dmetro and Nancy Ozubko, who homesteaded on the N.E.-10-48-16, in 1903. John was born in 1903 and attended school at Scona. He later went to work on the section for the C.N.R.

In 1926 he went visiting to Hay Lakes with his brother-in-law, Joe Shanley, and there he met his wife-to-be, Annie Maruschak who was born in that area in 1903. They were married in Hay Lakes in 1926. For three years after their marriage they lived with John's parents, where John helped his father with the farming, and Annie with the chores of the home and family. She vividly recalls baking twenty loaves of bread at one time in an outside baking stove made from clay and heated with wood some hours before. Annie also remembers spending many hours before a sewing machine, sewing clothes for various members of the family. It is also here that they were



Dmetro and Nancy Ozubko

blessed with their first born, a daughter, Mary, in 1927. Their second child Edward was born in 1929.

In the fall of 1929, John and his wife and children moved to their own farm three miles north, N.W. -22-48-16, which was purchased two years earlier from a Mr. Pawliuk. Here they built a house from logs which is still seasonally used today.



John and Annie Ozubko, 1926.

For many years they farmed and travelled with horses but with hard work and perseverance, improvements were made and additional lands acquired. In 1942 they bought their first tractor, a Hart-Parr for the sum of \$265.00. In 1943 they also bought their first car, a Model A Ford for \$120.00. Three other children were born to them, Maurice in 1938, Eugene in 1939 and Emily in 1942. All the children attended Vermillion Valley and Holden Schools.

John passed away in a tragic car accident on December 22, 1947 and Annie continued to farm actively with Eddie for four years. With Eddie going to work, the land was rented out to the late John and Emily Tkaczyk until 1956. At this time Maurice



John Ozubko family: Emily, Eugene, Maurice, Edward, Mary. Sitting: Annie Ozubko.

finished school and took over farming, which he continues till today.

In 1965 Annie moved to Edmonton and has made her home in an apartment for the last eleven years. She has nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The children:

Mary — After leaving school went to Edmonton in 1945 and took a Beauty Culture course and worked as a hairdresser for one and a half years. When her father passed away she went home to help mother, and stayed there for one and a half years. Upon returning to Edmonton she went back to hairdressing. Mary met John Hryniw from St. Michael and they got married in 1951. They were blessed with two children. Darlene (Mrs. Tom Novak) born in 1953, is a registered nurse. They live in Stony Plain where Tom is the Administrator of the Municipal Hospital and they have one daughter. Dwayne born in 1955, works for Eastwood Body Shop as a car painter. He married Susan Hitchinson in 1975 and they reside in Edmonton. They have three daughters.

John was employed at the Edmonton Cold Stor-



Mary Hryniw family: Darlene (Novak), John, Mary, Dwayne and Susan.

age for over thirty years till it closed down. He is now working at the Kingsway Garden Mall. Mary has been working at the Bay for twenty years as a sales clerk.

Edward — After Edward's dad passed away he farmed with his mother for four years. Then he worked in Ryley, Yellowknife, Calgary and Wetaskiwin before operating his own Renew Auto Body Shop at Leduc. In 1957 Ed. married Lena Nasby from Leduc. They had one daughter Louise of Calgary. Due to failing health Ed. is now unable to work and makes his home in Edmonton.



Edward Ozubko family: Louise, Edward and Lena.

Maurice — Many fond memories come to mind; such as rides to school with bob-sleigh and horses, standing around the big wood stove on cold winter mornings or the aroma of hot chocolate from the big pot on the stove waiting to be served for lunch. After



Maurice Ozubko family: Tracy, Maurice, Sylvia, and Mark.

the closing of the country school at the end of the 1951 school term, I went by school bus to Holden. In 1955 I graduated from high school and in 1956 took over the original farm (N.W.-22-48-16) which I still farm today.

In 1965 I moved to Edmonton and obtained employment as a real estate salesman with Weber Bros. Realty whom I worked for until 1972.

In 1966 I met Sylvia Pasula of Edmonton who was born in Hay Lakes in 1941 and we were married in 1970. Two years later we adopted our first child, Mark and one year later we adopted our second child Tracy.

We presently live in Edmonton and spend many of our spring, summer and fall months at the farm in Holden which is still home to us.

"You can take the country boy away from the country' but you can't take away the country from the boy."

Eugene — after graduating from Holden School



Eugene Ozubko family: Ryan, Gladys, Eugene and Rhea.

in 1957, he completed a business course at McTavish Business College. He worked at Safeway in the payroll and accounting division. While there he met Gladys Hughes whom he married in 1961. Later Eugene took a course in drafting and worked one year in Lands and Forests. In the spring of 1965 Eugene and Gladys moved to California where he worked for Fuller Brush until 1970. He then changed jobs and worked with Addressograph Multigraph in New Jersey for one year and then transferred back to Edmonton in 1971.

Eugene and Gladys had a family of two children, Rhea was born in 1963 and works as a secretary and Ryan was born in 1972. Ryan lives with his dad and attends school at Stony Plain. Gladys passed away in 1981.

Eugene has his own type setting business now called Omnitext Interfacing Services.

Ozubko, Mike

by Anne Motkoski, as told by Annie Ozubko

Mike is a son of Dmietro and Nancy (Tkaczyk) Ozubko who farmed (NW-10-48-16) located near St. Mary's Catholic Church. He is fourth in a family of three girls and six boys, Mary (Mrs. Alec Shehenski), Jessie (Mrs. Joe Shanley), John, Mike, Bill, Annie (Mrs. Stanley Komarnisky), Fred, Steve and Joe.



Mike Ozubko family. Back Row: Mike, Anne, Betty, Marvin, Reuben, Vernon and Gerald. Seated: Jean, Gloria and Sharon.

Mike attended Scona School and later farmed with his parents. He worked out occasionally, saving his money to buy the land south of Bruce, where he still resides.

In 1934 he married Annie, daughter of Fred and Catherine (Lazowski) Tkaczyk. They spent that winter with Mike's parents. In the spring they moved to their farm at Bruce and spent their summer honey-

moon in a granary which was part of the farm buildings. These were depression years, but somehow they managed. The house was improved and their first child, Betty was born in 1936, followed by seven brothers and sisters.

In 1955 Mike started working on road construction during the summer and during the winter cleaned grain for farmers in the Holden, Bruce and Viking areas with his portable grain cleaner. He is now retired.

In the meantime, Annie "held down the fort" at the farm. Jolly and well known in the district, she occasionally heads up a catering group for the Bruce Agricultural Society and also paints the interiors of houses with her sister-in-law Jean.

The Ozubko children all attended Bruce School, except Betty, who started school at Rich, later going to Bruce.

Betty, married to Lawrence Kachman, had worked for A.G.T., clerked at Liden's Store in Holden, had a flower shop in Edmonton, and presently helps Lawrence in a garage he operates in Edmonton. They have three children, Carmen, Terry and Shelley, and three grandchildren.

Jean is married to Albert Hoflin. They lived in California for about twenty years and now live in Edmonton. They had five children, Jeanie (deceased), Daryl, Dean, Barry and Lyle. Albert and his sons operate a Crane Company. The Hoflins have two grandchildren.

Marvin worked as a farm labourer until he met Nancy Nawrot, a school teacher whom he married in 1962. They live in Edmonton where Marvin is employed at Bruce Robinson as assistant manager of the electrical department. They have three children, Tammy, Bradley and Tanya.

Rueban works in the oil industry and is married to Betty Hoy of Edberg. They have two sons, Darren and David and reside in Edmonton.

Gloria, employed with Farm Credit for sixteen years, is married to Orest Ponich. He is a co-ordinator of data processing. Their children are Bernadette, Todd and Stacey. They reside in Edmonton.

Vernon, who began farming at an early age, claims he should now be retired, as he started milking cows at the age of five. His farming operation now includes a good dairy herd and he also works for a natural gas company, checking plants. He married the girl next door, Elaine Marcinkoski, and they have two girls, Rhonda and Lynette.

Sharon, worked for A.G.T. and is married to Jim Giebelhaus. They farm north of Bruce. Their two children are Carrie and Wesley.

Gerald apprenticed as a chef. He later changed his trade and is now an electrician. He married Melo-

ny O'Conner of Stettler and they have two girls, Chantelle and La Shauna. They also care for delinquent children. The family resides in Calgary.

Panas, William (Bill) and Margaret by Peter Panas

Bill Panas was born in 1901 on the border of Austria, in a little village called Sokal, East Galacia. In 1903, his parents Nikita and Palonka, his one brother, one step-brother, and four sisters decided to move to Canada, which was called Heaven. The sky was the limit and opportunity was golden.

The family arrived in Halifax, on the vessel Bulgaria, in May of 1903. From Halifax, they travelled by train to Edmonton, where they were met by their family, the Fedechkos from Mundare. They lived with them until the spring of 1904. At that time the family decided to look for a homestead, which they found south of Holden, known as the Polska and Kopernick district.



Cutting grain on Panas farm.

A close friend, Mr. Nozak, helped moved the family to the homestead, by wagon. Tears rolled down his face to see the children sleep in the wagon under the stars. That same night, a good six inches of snow fell. A neighbour of the family, Fred Faryna, made a slingshot and killed rabbits to feed the family. Also, his mother supplied skim milk to feed the infant child (Harry).

Shortly after that, the father of the family bought a couple oxen and a walking plow for eight dollars and forty cents (this plow can still be seen on display at his grandson's acreage near Sherwood Park).

As the years passed, the family worked together and some members got married. Bill and his younger brother Harry, stayed at home and worked and helped the others that were married. To help feed the family, the father, Nikita, packed a sack of dry bread, and along with a few neighbors, walked to Edmonton to

find work. He got a job at Frazer Lumber Company in Edmonton.

In those days schools were almost non-existent. Bill and the younger members of the family attended school at Polska, which was located next to the Polska Church. Later the school burned down and that was the end of school days.

In 1910, Bill was sent to school in Edmonton for one winter, then returned home and laid his hands on the axe and started clearing land.



All aboard the family Model T.

In 1913, he recalled a heavy winter and a big snowfall in early spring. I (Peter) recall him saying, Larsens just south of Holden had cattle in a small slough surrounded by willows and the snow drifted over the top and covered all the cattle. As the snow melted, the farmers found the cattle standing in the same position as they froze.

At the age of fourteen, he worked with threshing crews, at times working for thirty days without a break. At some places the meals were excellent and at other places it was next to starvation.

At the age of sixteen, he got a job as a fireman on a steam engine used for threshing. He had to be up at four in the morning to have the boiler stoked up with steam, ready to be in operation by six. The crew consisted of one fireman, one engineer, one water hauler, one separator man, twelve teams, four field pitchers and two spike pitchers. The crew moved from farm to farm.

When he grew older, his father bought him a ¼ section of land located near his land NE-11-47-16 which was all bush. Bill was in his glory when he finally took his crop off.

In 1923, he decided to buy his first car, a Model T. As a young fellow having a car, he decided to travel a little further from home to seek for his future wife. He drove north of Holden and found a young lady by the name of Margaret Komarnisky. Bill and Margaret

were married in 1926 at the Mundare church. The wedding reception took place on the farm of the bride's parents near Haight, Alberta.

For the next three years, the couple lived at Bill's parents' farm. In 1928, their first son, Peter, was born. Bill and Margaret recollected that in 1929, it was so dry that people did not have potatoes for winter use. In 1930, they had a bumper crop and the depression had worked in. The price of wheat had dropped from \$1.18 per bushel to 18¢ per bushel. It had almost taken all the grain to pay the threshing bill. In those days owners of threshing machines were charging 12¢ per bushel, farmers had no choice and could not afford to pay the taxes.

During the depression, Bill sold a fourteen hundred pound bull to the stockyards at Holden. George Maruszczyka purchased it for eleven dollars and Bill also had to pay the trucking bill on top of that. I remember my uncle selling nine pigs for twenty-nine dollars and gas sold for ten cents per gallon. At this time, Bill could not afford to drive his car, so he traded it for a disc.

In 1935, things started to improve and the change of government took place and saved many Alberta farmers. In 1939, war broke out, the farmers started to get ahead by keeping the demand up to feed our boys that went to fight for the great nation.

In 1942, Bill's and Margaret's second son, Mike was born. During this time, Peter, attended school at Reward and later at Holden. In 1948, Peter moved to Edmonton and worked for a wholesaler. Later he was employed by the Post Office where he still works.

In 1950, Peter married Mary Panasiuk, of Evansburg. They have one daughter, Debbie (Mrs. Mario Arrotta) who is employed and lives in Edmonton.

Mike also attended school at Reward and Holden. In 1969, he married Geraldine Fournier of Edmonton. Presently, he is employed with Wardair of Canada Ltd. They have a daughter, Cathy, attending N.A.I.T.

Bill and Margaret were fortunate to witness the building of three churches in Kopernick, over the years. They lived on the farm until 1974, when they retired and lived at Daysland Senior Citizen home. Bill passed away in 1980, and Margaret still resides at Daysland. Their farm is still owned by the family.

Parsons Family

by Anna Parsons Warren

My mother, Elna Marie Parsons, was born in 1891, on a farmstead near Thyrsting, Denmark, the fifth of eight children in the family of Hans and Kirstine Christensen. When she was only a few days old, the thatched roof of the cottage caught on fire, and she was bundled up and tossed unceremoniously



Elna Parsons.

out into the snow, to be retrieved later when the rest of the family retreated behind the garden wall for safety. The next day her father became renter of a large estate, Vaabensholm. There Mother and the other small children had a nursemaid, and a private teacher.

In 1903 the Christensen family came to America, first to Wisconsin, then to Alberta, settling on a homestead in the Vermillion Valley district. Mother started in Pleasant Ridge School the day it opened in the dead of winter in 1905, and breezed through her school days. By 1909 she was going to Normal



Gladys, Elsie, and Anna Parsons, about 1926.

School in Calgary. She taught at Martins, and at Battleview, where she met and married Frederick Parsons, from Levis, Quebec. They went to live in Edmonton, where Fred worked in the Power House. Their four older children, Galdys, Harold, Norman and Anna, were born in Edmonton. Elsie was born at Holden.

The Parsons' home was on Ross Flats, and in 1915 their house was caught in the flood. Gladys lost her doll, and mourned until it was replaced by another one, with beautiful porcelain face, real hair, and a dress of blue taffeta and lace. She started school at Donald Ross, as did Harold and Norman.



Norman Parsons, 1932.

In the early 1920's, a couple of years after my grandmother died, Mother and we children came to live on the farm at Holden with her father, and brothers Chris and Magnus. They assumed responsibility for our care, and for this we were indeed grateful. I remember them, and the home on the farm, with much fondness.

Mother had a large household to maintain, but had boundless energy, and managed well. She first placed the three older children at Poe School, but found that the teacher switched the pupils for every offence, real or imaginary, so the next term, school attendance was at Holden, where Elsie and I started.

We children did, of course, have chores to do, but every Saturday, weather permitting, Gladys and Harold drove five miles to take music lessons from Mrs. Thieme. Harold did exceptionally well, and loved to play the organ, and later the piano. Gladys applied her knowledge of notes to the Hawaiian guitar, and I can still hear her playing "Aloha Oe", ever so sweetly. Norman was interested in sports, especially baseball, and liked to ride his C.C.M. bicycle. Elsie had a sunny disposition, and was a favorite with all. Grandfather, whom we children called "Bedstefar", would often take her with him in the buggy, to inspect the fields and cattle. I was the bookworm, and poured over the Elsie Dinsmore series by the hour.

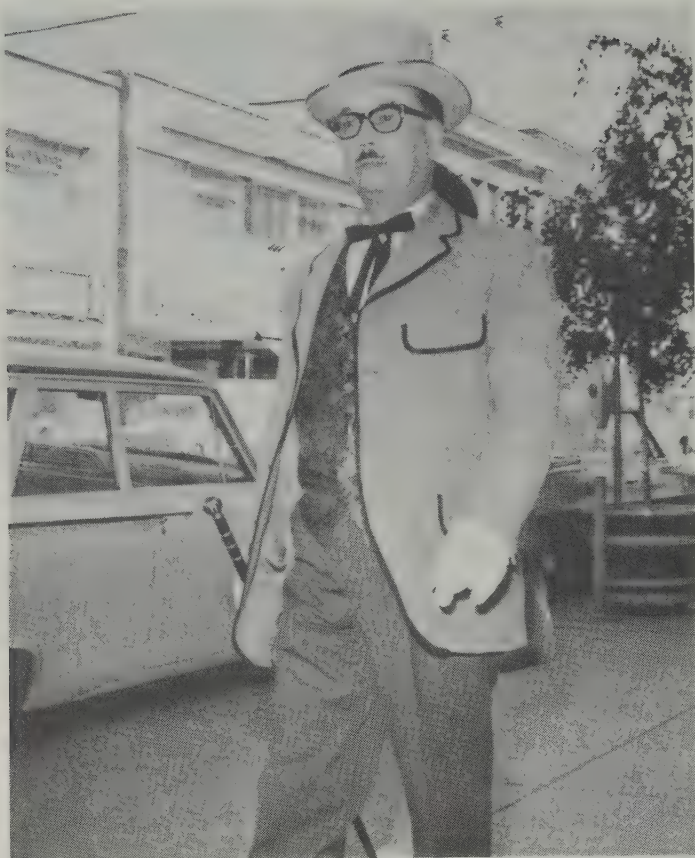
There were many family gatherings in those happy days of the 1920's, especially at Christmas time, and in July, when Aunt Anna and Uncle Anton Nielsen with their two children, Willie and Ella, came up from Standard for their annual visit. On many a Sunday evening we Parsons children would go over the fields to Uncle Tommy's place, to play with our cousin Hans, and partake of Aunt Sorine's delicious Danish "klejner" and "aebleskiver". We also saw quite a bit of our friends and neighbors to the west, the Campbells, and the McVitties. The latter had a lively hired girl, Violet Chapman, whose company we all enjoyed.

Entertainment was never scarce on the farm. There were lots of books and magazines to read, and music was provided by the organ and also a gramophone, a Victor model with a horn, on which we played such favorite records as "Roses of Picardy", and "Let the Rest of the World Go By". In 1926, a new dimension was added to our lives when a relative, Henning Flohr, arrived from Denmark to become one of the family. He soon had a radio with earphones rigged up, and what fun it was to listen to Amos 'n' Andy at KOA, Denver! Uncle Chris became inspired to buy an Atwater Kent radio, with the three dials to twiddle when tuning in on a station.

The childhood days went by so quickly. In 1932 Gladys went to Calgary to take a business course, and one cold night in December a phone call came to say that she was dead. She had, it was supposed, stood up in the bathtub to turn on an electric heater, and was electrocuted instantly. Such a shock to us all.

Henning went back to Denmark early the next year, and that summer Uncle Christ hired boys from town, such as Lorne (Rusty) Forsythe and Neil Bosomworth, to work in the hayfields. They enjoyed the camaraderie, and Mother's good cooking. At one supper setting, Rusty polished off 23 cobs of corn!

Harold finished his schooling at Crescent Heights in Calgary, with William Aberhart as princi-



Harold Parsons in Klondike costume, 1970.

pal. He attended Camrose Normal School, and obtained his degree in Education at summer school sessions. He taught first at Fairview, then at Amisk Creek, before joining the Junior High School staff at Ryley in 1940. Except for a brief period when he taught at Ross Sheppard Composite School in Edmonton, and then was Assistant Superintendant of Schools for the County of Beaver, he remained at Ryley. He took an early retirement in 1973 due to the inroads of diabetes, and is still living there.

Norman took auto mechanics at the Technical School in Calgary, and during the war worked for the Americans at Anchorage, Alaska, repairing airplanes. Then he was employed at Ken's Garage in Edmonton until it closed, and in other garages after that, until he retired in 1980. He and his wife Anne have three children, Beverley (Lupul), Ronald and Linda. Their first-born, Arlene, died on the operating table when only a year old.

Elsie married John (Lefty) Clark, a well-known baseball player, during the war, when he was working for Imperial Oil on the Alaska Highway. Their first child, Judith Elna, was drowned in Dawson Creek at the age of three. After the war, they made their home at Holden, then at Ryley, where Lefty has been engaged in hauling gravel for many years. They have three children, Barry Chris, Timothy, and Wendy.

Bedstefar died in 1936. Mother and Uncle Chris remained on the farm until 1949, when they moved to

Holden. They were always active in the community, and Mother set something of a record by being Secretary of the Women's Missionary Society for over thirty years. It is sad to relate, that after the onslaught of Parkinson's disease in the mid-sixties, it was deemed best that she leave her home, and enter an auxiliary hospital in Edmonton. She died in 1970, and Uncle Chris, so well respected by the Christensen family, in 1976.

As for myself, I enjoyed the high school days at Holden so much. There was such a good bunch of kids going at that time, and we thought the world of our teacher, J. Arkle Richardson. I went to Normal School at Edmonton, and taught at various schools, including Talbot, until I joined the staff at Vegreville. There I met Newton Warren, newly home from the War and we were married in 1947. Our two children Maureen (Rae) and Diane (Tromposch) were born in Vegreville. In 1954 we came to Elk Point, where we had the Solo Store, and the Locker Plant until Newt retired in 1976. Happily, there followed five good years, before Newt died in 1982. I am still living at Elk Point.

Paskoski, William and Nancy

Wasył (William) Paskoski was born in 1896 in Galicia (now the Ukraine). He gained his basic education there, and at the age of seventeen he left his parents, two brothers and one sister to come to Canada. The year was 1913, when he immigrated to join his older sister Mary Komarnisky and her husband Metro, in the Holden area.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Paskoski, 25th Anniversary.

William's first job in Canada was with the C.N.R., with whom he was employed for approximately six years. In 1919, he bought a quarter section of land, ten acres of which were cleared. William engaged in mixed farming and bought two horses.

1921 heralded the marriage of William to the former Anastasia (Nancy) Umrysh, daughter of Anna and Fred. Nancy's dowry, at the time of their marriage, consisted of six cows, one horse and ten chickens. Twenty five chickens, in total, were received by the couple from the invited guests to their wedding.

The couple was blessed with nine children; three boys and six girls. Two of the children died in infancy. All were born at home aided by a midwife. The entire family lived in a log and clay house which consisted of one room and a loft.

As only ten acres of land were cleared, the rest had to be cleared using a hand plow in order to turn the soil. In addition, William rented a quarter section from the Hudson Bay Company for grazing purpose. William and Nancy's nephew, Max Komarnisky and his wife Pauline proved to be invaluable in assisting with both the farming and household duties.



Family of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Paskoski.

The decades of the 1920's, 30's and 40's were harsh. The family had to work long hours to make ends meet. There certainly was no room for luxuries.

On their farm in Holden, in the year 1946, the couple celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Over one hundred people were in attendance.

Some four years later in 1950, the Paskoski's sold all their animals, equipment and buildings and moved to Edmonton. They purchased a home in the northeast section of the city. William worked at the MacDonald Hotel as kitchen help until his retirement at the age of sixty five in 1961. Nancy was also employed as kitchen help at the Corona Hotel until

the 1960's. After their retirement, the couple enjoyed travels to the United States and the four western provinces.

William and Nancy celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in Edmonton in 1971. All of their children and their spouses, their grandchildren and many friends and relatives joined them in the celebration.

William passed away in 1978; Nancy still resides in Edmonton.

The Paskoski children are: Paul and Marie (deceased) and their children, Susan and Douglas reside in Edmonton. Mike and Mary Paskoski, their children: Donna, Paul and Sharon (Mulligan) and her daughter Melissa reside in the Edmonton area. Nick and Mary Ropchan, their children: Jerry, John and Valerie (Kok) reside in Edmonton. Leo and Ann Maller and their children: Tim, Brian, Leslie and Randy reside in Kelowna, B.C. Ed and Ollie Shupenia of St. Albert, Walter and Stella Shupenia of Edmonton. Harry and Elizabeth (Betty) Hutniak, their children: Carolyn and Gregory reside in Edmonton.

Pasnak, Onufrey

Onufrey Frank Pasnak came from Austria to Rochester, New York at about 1908, and in a few years went back to the old country. He made an attempt to return to the U. S. A. but the world war broke out and he was unable to return till 1918. He settled at Bondiss, Alberta and later moving to Holden, where he and his brother John Pasnak opened a store.



Maggie (Komarnisky) Pasnak, 1924.

Frank married Maggie Komarnisky, Canadian born, who lived in the Palmer district and attended school there. While living in Holden one child was born, Olga Patricia. She is now married to Stan Jober, and they raised four children, all presently residing in Edmonton. Their children are Douglas, Richard, Donna and Francine.



Maggie and Frank Pasnak.

After the business partnership dissolved Frank bought the Steffen place, a quarter section, seven miles south of Holden and bought another quarter section across the road from the C.P.R.

Another two girls were born to Frank and Maggie. Natalie now married to Nick Hnybida, and Nadine, now Gordichuk, lives in Edmonton. The Hnybidas have four children, two live in Holden and two reside in Edmonton.

The mixed farm was managed by the family till 1944 when Maggie passed away. The farm was then rented to different parties and then passed on to daughter Natalie and son-in-law Nick. Now the farm is being run by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hnybida.

The Pastuzyk Family

In 1904, Harry and Annie Pastuzyk and their five year old son Mike emigrated from the Austrian Ukraine to Canada. Mrs. Harry Pastuzyk was the former Annie Komarnisky.

Home in the first ten months was staying with the Harry Bilyk family, north of Holden. They eventually purchased a homestead south of Holden. In March of 1905, they gathered up their few belongings and moved, by oxen and wagon, to Jim Mulicks.



Harry and Anne Pastuzyk.

During their two month stay with the Mulick family, they with the help of neighbors, cut trees and constructed a house on their own land. In May of 1905, they moved into this little house, which consisted of two rooms, a dirt floor and a straw roof. The outside was finished with a mud plaster.

This first summer about two acres were cultivated in which a garden and some grain were planted. To be able to survive, Harry walked to Edmonton looking for work. He was fortunate to find periodic employment with the Town of Edmonton as a labourer and some jobs with C.N.R. on extra gangs on the railway. This lifestyle was perpetuated for the next six years after which Harry decided to cultivate more land and make farming his full time livelihood. Grain was seeded by hand and harvesting was done by cutting it with a sickle and threshing with a flail. As far as stock was concerned, the start was two oxen, one cow, one pig and a few chickens.

In 1911, again with the help of the neighbors the second house was built. This house was larger consisting of two rooms and a shanty with wooden floors throughout. The roof was covered with cedar shingles and the outside was finished with a mud plaster as before.

The progress in the up coming few years proved to be favourable and the farm was becoming a successful operation.

In 1919, the third house was built. This house was considered a modern two storey seven room house and still remains in fairly good condition even today.

Transportation in these early years was by oxen and very slow. Mike as a young boy remembers

travelling to Holden, eight miles away from the homestead, that took about seven hours return trip. In 1910, the first pair of horses were acquired and were used for farm chores and means of conveyance.

As time passed by additional land was purchased including the quarter section from Jim Mulick, who decided to move away to Radway, Alberta.

The settlers in this South Holden Community were predominantly of Ukrainian Greek Catholic faith so a little log church was erected in 1907 for worship. As the congregation and support grew larger each year, Harry and son Mike helped organize and construct a new church in 1916 which offers services to this day.

The first car purchased by Mike was in 1920, a Ford touring sedan. From this year and as late as the 1940's the car was only used during the summer months, because once the snow came in the fall the roads would be blocked and closed until the thaw came the following spring.



Standing: Emily, Lawrence, John. Seated: Mike and Pearl Pastuzyk.

Mike has vivid memories of the prohibition era which lasted about seven years 1916 to 1923. During this time the bars were restricted to the sale of pop, coffee and apple cider. Moonshine stills and home brew were prevalent, only to be raided periodically, by the R.C.M.P.

Being mechanically inclined and an ambitious young man, Mike purchased his first tractor and threshing machine in 1924. The tractor was a Rumley and the thresher was a twenty-two inch cylinder Case. For almost thirty years he was in command of his own threshing crew.

In November of 1922, Mike married Pearl Rubis from the Hay Lakes area. This marriage resulted in three off-spring, John, Emily and Lawrence. The three children grew up on the farm and commenced

their education in Vermilion Valley, a little country school, three miles from home. From Vermilion Valley it was on to Holden High School and then to Edmonton. They completed their schooling in Edmonton and each one entered into their respective careers. Emily as secretary with the Provincial Government, Lawrence as land developer and private pilot and John as insurance agent with the Mutual Life of Canada. Emily also attended the final year of High School in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, "The Sacred Heart Academy", prior to moving to Edmonton.

Harry Pastuzyk passed away in 1941 and Annie Pastuzyk in 1942, both at the age of 68.



Pastuzyk family gathering.

Mike and Pearl semi-retired, from the homestead in 1956 and moved to the city of Edmonton. However, the family farm remained intact.

Tragedy struck the family, as Lawrence fell victim to cancer and died in 1975 at a relatively young age of thirty eight.

To this day, the various family members, are frequent visitors to the farm during the summer months to enjoy the tranquillity and the fresh country atmosphere that exists away from the urban living.

The grandchildren of Mike and Pearl Pastuzyk are all living in the city of Edmonton. John's daughters, Gwen and Jo-Anne, Emily's daughters, Sonia and Geraldine, and Lawrence's children, Carol, Ricky and Michael.

Pawluk, Paul and Catherine

Catherine, was born in 1900 in Poland, daughter of Joseph and Maria Motkowski. She lived on the farm in Polska district with her parents until she married Paul Pawluk, who was born in 1890. Their farm was just a few miles north of her father's place. Catherine passed away in 1923 of complications after a birth. Paul passed away a year later, in 1924. They are both buried in the Polska Cemetery. They were predeceased by one child, Peter, who lost his life in a



Frank and Frances Pawluk and daughter Myrna.

house fire, and were survived by two children, Frank, born in 1920, and Annie. After the passing of the parents, the children were looked after by their grandparents, Joseph and Maria Motkowski.

Frank lived in the Polska district until the spring of 1932 when he moved with his grandparents to Colinton, Alberta. In the fall Grandpa and Frank made a trip back to Holden to pick up some horses. They caught a ride to Edmonton with a neighbor who was taking his boys to find work harvesting in Leduc, Alberta. From there it is likely they walked to Holden. They got their horses and a Bennett buggy and began the trek back to Colinton which took many days. They lived on bread and boiled eggs which Jessie Motkowski had provided for them.

By 1935, when Frank was fifteen, the hard times left no alternative but that he seek work elsewhere. He worked as a farm hand seasonally, and also did his share of riding the rails. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1941.

Frank met and married Frances Sefferin in 1942. After his discharge from the army they farmed what had been his father's farm south of Holden for a few years, then moved to a dairy farm in Chilliwack, B.C. in 1950. Finding that not to their liking, they moved back to Albera, this time to Sangudo in 1951, where they farmed until they went into semi-retirement in Barrhead, Alberta.

In 1980 they had moved to Kelowna, B.C. where Frank is now fully retired. Frank and Frances have a family of two, a daughter and a son. Myrna (Mrs. Rowland), works as a computer consultant, and in real estate in Edmonton. She has one daughter, Tracy,



Barb and Don Pawluk.

and a grandchild. Don married Barbara Mohr and they have four children; Chantell, Sherri, Chelsey and Cheyenne. They live in Sherwood Park where Don has a landscaping business.

Annie moved with her grandparents to Colinton in 1932, there she married Metro Turkowski. They took over the homestead when the grandparents moved to Edmonton. Eleven children were born to Annie and Metro, ten are living. Annie is now living in Athabasca, Metro is deceased. The children are: Ted, farming near Colinton; Mike, trucking in Radway; Victoria (Mrs. Ross Banderek) Calgary; Evangeline (Mrs. Ross Kuss) Calgary; Irene (Mrs. J. J. Della Porta) Miami, Florida; Carol in Ontario; Nellie (Mrs. Dave Hjerpe) Aldergrove, B.C.; Joyce (Mrs. Daryl Dufresne) Edmonton; Steve, electrician and landscaping, Prince George, B.C. and Cathy in Edmonton.

Pederson, Albert and Ruth

Albert Pederson arrived in Holden in 1934 to work for Fred Koetke in his hardware store. He worked for \$45.00 a month and besides paying for his board and room, he was able to save enough money before Christmas to buy himself a suit and Christmas gifts for all the members of his family. This job he held until January 1937.

The winter of '37, Albert and Gordon Mohler contracted the ice for Holden's creamery. At this time Albert, Gordon, and Hans Christensen batched above Gordeau's store. The ice venture didn't work out and Albert had to sell his bed, cupboard and dishes to Hans in order to eat. When he'd eaten this up, he went home.

Then in the spring of 1937, he took on the Red Head Gas and Oil Wholesale and operated out of a room that was combined office and living quarters at the rear of Shanley's Shoe Shop. He remained there until Red Head built a service station in the spring of '39, where the town fire hall now stands.

In 1939, Albert married Ruth Giebelhaus. They resided in the service station until the spring of '45, when they moved into their first home.

The first winter they were married, they made their living selling coal oil for lamps and charging 2-volt batteries for radios. They figured if they could make \$2.00 a day, they had it made. Rent for the premises was \$15.00 per month.

Albert continued the service station and wholesale fuel until the fall of '48, when he then moved into his new garage, General Sales and Service, where he had the Plymouth, Chrysler dealership and Case machinery.

He sold out in '57. In '56, they moved south of town to an acreage. From '58 to '64 they operated Alberta Poultry Producers Egg Grading Station and raised chickens for broiler hatching eggs.

In '64 a move was made to Camrose. Albert went into business for himself and Ruth went back to school, and took up teaching.

In '77 they moved to Sherwood Park where Albert continues with his wholesale business, and with his son Robert, operates a smoke and gift shop. Ruth continues her teaching.

The Pedersons have two sons. George and family live in Red Deer where both he and his wife Linda teach school. They have two sons, Jayson and Erik. Kathy, Robert's wife nurses part time in intensive care at the U. of A. Hospital and looks after their two sons, Trevor and Ryan, and daughter Shauna.

Peterson, August

by Ross Zwierschke and June Clark

August Peterson and his wife were among the early settlers who settled east of Holden. They had a large family, John, Martin, Elmer, Lars, Albert, Mabel and Clifford. For various reasons, one by one they passed away, and Lars was the only one who lived to be very old.

Mr. Peterson was one of the founders of Longridge School and was the secretary treasurer until the new (present) school was built. They sold out once and moved to the coast where Lars was married. In the late thirties they returned to the Holden district where they lived until their deaths. I think all were laid to rest in the Holden cemetery.

Lars and his wife, Ida, had one son, Karl, who has left the district. Mrs. Peterson's brother, Peter



Mabel and Lars Peterson.

Martin, lived in a house just north of the "Holden road", and was another of the early pioneers.

Lars and his brother Albert were very good violin players, and Lars taught quite a few neighboring young people the art. The Petersons were good neighbors, and the few oldtimers who are left around here, remember them with fond memories.

Petryga, Fred and Nick Families

Fred (1865-1948) and Mary (1875-1969 nee Kieryliuk) Petryga arrived in Canada in 1899. They travelled to the Wostock area and lived there for three years. While there, they heard that friends from the "old" country were settled in the area now known as Borschiw. They moved to that community and homesteaded the S.W.-16-51-16.

They arrived in Canada with two children, Dmytro and Anne. Mike and Bill were born in the Wostock area. The rest of the children, namely, Dorothy, Peter, Josie and Nick (1916-1970), were born at



Fred and Mary Petryga, with their family.

the homestead. All the children, except Nick, left the homestead to pursue their own endeavors.

Nick met Anne Mochinski in 1935 while she was in the area visiting from Hardisty. She was the daughter of Thomas Mochinski and Mary Baraniuk. Nick and Anne were married at Mundare in 1937. They lived with Nick's parents for twelve years until the parents moved to Vegreville. While on the farm they had three sons, Lawrence, born in 1938, Gerald in 1940 and Daniel in 1946.



Ann and Nick Petryga with their son Dan in 1970.

Lawrence and Gerald started their elementary education at Togo School. After the closure of Togo, the boys took the bus to Holden where Lawrence and Gerald finished grade twelve. Daniel completed his

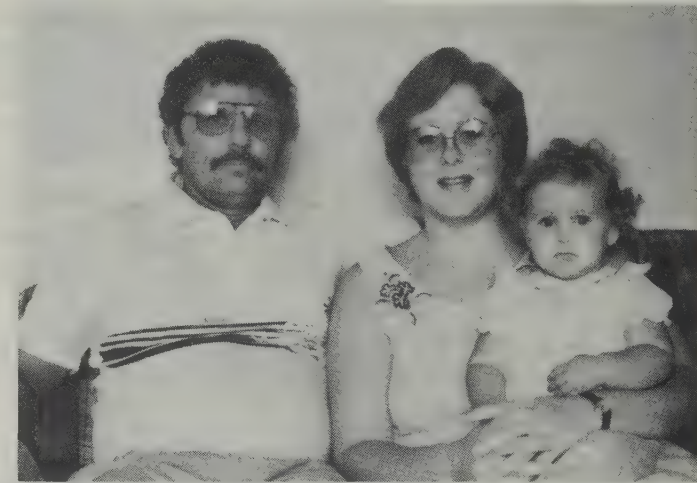


Lawrence and Linda Petryga with children, James, Kathy and Doug.

grade nine at St. Kevin's School in Edmonton. He then entered St. Peter's and Paul's Monastery in Mundare where he completed most of his high school and gained his printing experience. Daniel left the monastery in 1967.

In 1959 Nick moved the family to Edmonton, where he worked as a carpenter for McConnell Homes and Gendall Builders.

In 1963 Lawrence married Linda Mitchell of Edmonton. They reside in Leduc, and have three children, Douglas, James and Catherine. Lawrence is employed by C.P. Air as a ground equipment mechanic and Linda is a seamstress in Leduc.



Gerald and Lori Petryga and Shelly.

Gerald married Joanne Kotylak, of Edmonton in 1964. They resided in Edmonton until 1973, and had three children, Christina, Carrie and Christopher. Gerald and Joanne were divorced in 1973. Gerald married Lori Nielsen of Sylvan Lake in 1979. They reside in Edmonton and have one son Gregg and one daughter Shelley. Gerald is employed by Andy's Trucking as a driver.



Gerald Petryga children: Christina, Greg, Carrie and Christopher.

In 1970 Daniel married Marianne Senetchko, of Calmar. They reside in Leduc and have two children, David and Theresa. Daniel is employed as a printer by Ronald's Western Printing Limited, and also has his own printing business in Leduc. Marianne is a high school teacher in Leduc.

Nick passed away in 1970 in Edmonton and was



Dan and Marianne Petryga, Theresa and David.

buried in the Borschiw Cemetery. Anne resides in Edmonton and has worked for the Basilian Fathers since 1960. She is still employed part-time by them as a housekeeper.

Pipke, John E.

by Jack A. Pipke

John E. Pipke was born in Bismark, North Dakota, U.S.A. He married Cathy Saudau in 1911, and in 1915 moved to Hatton, Saskatchewan. They farmed there for nine years, and during that time had five



John Pipke family.

crop failures due to drought, so in the fall of 1924 he moved to N $\frac{1}{2}$ -4-50-15, which is located about eight miles north of Holden. John E. Pipke lived there until his death in 1958.

When John moved to the Holden area he purchased his land from Mr. Grosland. The Pipke family, which at the time consisted of Ida, Fred, John, Jack, Albert and Clara, came from Saskatchewan in a Model T Ford. When they moved here three other families came along with them, the Brigges, Quasts and the Remins. The government gave the families a few rail cars for use in the transportation of machinery, furniture, and some livestock. Between the four families they still had to drive sixty-five horses on foot. They used one covered wagon in front of them and two behind, along with several outriders to keep them contained. It took them eleven days to get here, having a lot of trouble along the way, because the horses always wanted to turn back.

Their neighbor at the new farm was August Miller, who lived a half a mile north. They stayed there for two weeks until their goods arrived on rail. In John E. Pipke's lifetime he also purchased the W- $\frac{1}{2}$ -5-50-15 from Einar Arneson which was all bush, and also the north 80 acres of SW-4-50-15, which had seventeen acres broke on it. He also purchased the S $\frac{1}{2}$ -3-50-15, and W- $\frac{1}{2}$ -17-50-14, which was open range. Most of this land was bought with no down payment, just an agreement to brush so much each year and give a one third crop share for payments. I remember the first crop we had, was all wild oats, so we cut it down for feed.



John Pipke hauling gravel.

In 1924 Emil was born into the family. In 1925 Dad made axes out of plow shares and we started cutting bush. By the end of the summer we had about 15-20 acres of heavy bush cut down. The trees were all trimmed out for fire wood and the wood was hauled home, sawed and split. The extra wood was hauled to Vegreville and sold for a dollar a wagon box full. Our breaking was done with a fourteen inch, one bottom breaking plow. The big trees were cut three feet high, and the stumps were then pulled out with four horses, making it easier to break the land. In 1927 Dad bought his first tractor, a Case cross-motor, which made breaking a lot easier. He also went out and did some custom breaking. In 1928 we bought our first threshing machine and also did custom work with it. The crops were cut with binders and stooked by hand. The threshing crew was made up of eight bundle teams, two grain haulers and the machine boss, who was John E. Pipke.

In 1930 Mother died of cancer and left eleven children. In 1931 Dad remarried. Our stepmother had five children of her own. Even after my oldest sister got married in 1932, Dad still had seventeen hungry mouths to feed. He used to haul one hundred bushels of wheat to the flour mill in Vegreville and bring back flour which usually lasted about a year. In 1935 times were so rough that Dad took the motor out of the old Model T and used it to saw wood and the chassis was made into a Bennett buggy because there was no money to buy gas.

The church which we went to was the Evangelical United Brethren, located on the correction line fifteen miles N.E. of Holden. We received our education at Adams School. Favorite pastimes during our school days were baseball and trapping. We trapped gophers for a cent a tail, or stole crows' eggs from the nest for a cent apiece. In the winter we trapped rabbits and weasels. The money we made all went for school supplies and what was left over was our spending money. In 1936 Dad, J. A. Giebelhaus and Fred Grinde bought a carload of lumber, which was delivered to Inland and from there it was hauled by wagon and horses to build each a big horse barn.

All of the Pipke children from the first marriage are still living and are all married and have families of their own.

Ida married Otto Quast, a mechanic, and had six children, Herb, Lorrain, Dorien, Irene, Donnie and Carl. Ida and Otto reside in Duncan B.C.

Fred, a mechanic by trade, married Else Grams and had five children Kenny, Donnie and Dorien (twins), Gary and Ruth. Fred and Else reside in Richmond, B.C.

John, a farmer, married Anne Froehlick and had four boys, Gordon, Roland, Elwood and Morris.

John and Anne reside on their farm near Bashaw, Alberta.

Jack, a farmer, married Ella Dietterle and had two children, Linda and Terry. Jack purchased the W½-17-50-14 for \$4500.00 in 1943 from his Dad. Jack and Ella still reside on their farm south of Vegreville.

Albert, a mechanic, married Hilda Heins and had three children, Ingrid, Rosemarie and Marven. Albert and Hilda reside in Vernon, B.C.

Clara married Ralph Wegenast, a farmer, and had three children, Irene, Wayne and Delvin. Clara and Ralph reside in Forestburg.

Emil, a carpenter, married Katie Tonne and had three children, Carol, Douglas and David. Emil and Katie reside in Edmonton.

Bill, a minister, married Elsie Mantik and had two children, Eleane and Billy. Bill and Elsie reside in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Otto, a farmer, married Lilly Wiebert and had two children, Doris and Richard. Otto's farm is the SE¼-5-50-15 which he received from John E. Pipke. Otto also purchased some of the other Pipke land. At present Otto and Lily reside in Camrose, and his son Richard is on the farm.

Rosie married Reinhold Wegenast, a farmer, and had four children, Linda, Cathy, Dianne and Leona. Rosie and Reinhold reside in Killam, Alberta.

In John E. Pipke's second marriage there were two children, Olga, who married Lawrence Hurum (see Hurum history), and Victor, who was unmarried, and died in 1970 at the age of 32.

Pokraka, James

In 1919 James (Jim) Pokraka of Ord, Nebraska, came to visit his old Nebraska friends at Tofield and Viking. He liked the country and land, so decided to



Pokraka family: Ann, Mrs. Mary Pokraka, Helen and Jim.

buy at Holden as he was only renting in Nebraska. He first bought NW 31-15-49 north of Holden and then bought NW 34-48-16 and NE 33-48-16 located south of Holden, from Vincent Vegrzyn.

In 1920 Jim moved with his wife Mary and two daughters, Ann and Helen to Holden. After Mr. Vegrzyn sold out, they moved to the farm south of Holden. His old Nebraska friends Frank Bruha of Tofield and Frank Merta of Viking helped him build his barn. He sold his land north of Holden to Louie Johnson, and bought the SE 33-48-16 from the C.P.R.

Mrs. Pokraka was the organist at Polska Church and taught catechism during the summer at Vermillion Valley School. Mass was held in the school once a month for Catholic families.

Mr. Pokraka hired out as a thresher operator in 1919. In 1920 he bought his own steam threshing outfit which he operated for seventeen years in the Haight area.



Pat and Lucy Pokraka.

Martha was born in 1924 and passed away as a baby. Pat and Lucille were born after Martha. Pat their only son died in 1937. After this the Pokrakas went to St. Mary's orphanage and returned with an eleven year old boy, Bill Kelly to live with them. Mr. Pokraka passed away suddenly of a heart attack in 1940 at the age 53. That summer, a young boy of seven, Leonard (Bob) Mitchell came to live with Pokrakas from the orphanage. He attended Vermillion Valley School.

Ann passed away in 1943, and Bill Kelly died as a result of a car accident in Idaho in 1956.

Mrs. Pokraka and Lucille remained on the farm and rented out land. In 1972 Mrs. Pokraka passed away at the age of 83. She is survived by Helen and her husband Bill Schmick and their two children; Lucille and Bob Mitchell, of Holden.

Pooke, Alex and Florence

I, Florence, born to Nick and Mary Micklich in 1926, married Alex, the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. Pooke in 1949. We had three boys, Leonard, Bernie and Robert. Alex passed away in 1966 at the age of forty-one. The boys all graduated from Holden School. Len and Rob went to Nait for two years, and Bernie left for Edmonton where he is employed with Montreal Engineering.



Alex and Florence Pooke's wedding.

Bernie married Marlene Maik of Edmonton. Leonard married Karen Coast of Lac La Biche. They have two girls Lisa and Sebrina. Len is employed at Nova at Vegreville. Robert married Darlene Homeniuk of Edmonton. They live in Calgary where Robert works for Imperial Oil.

When the boys left Holden to their chosen destinations I also moved to the city where I was employed for seven years. In 1981 there was a job opportunity for me in Holden, so I moved back to my home, and at present am working part time at Holden Senior Citizens' Lodge.



Bernie, Leonard, Florence and Robert.

Pooke, John

John Pooke was born in 1910 in the Borschiw District. He attended Togo School for four years and obtained the remainder of his education at Myroslaw School.



John and Tillie Pooke.

In 1930 he married Tillie Zuk and they farmed three miles east of Haight, Alberta for four years. In 1934 they moved four miles southwest of Holden and continued to farm there for twenty-four years.



Pooke Family. Standing: Shirley, Natalie, Gertie and Lloyd. Seated: Tillie and John.

In 1959 they turned the farm over to their son Lloyd and moved into the Village of Holden. John was employed by Bell's Service for two years, and then by Jack's Esso Service and Imperial Oil Agency for fifteen years. He retired in 1976.

John and Tillie had five children, one son and four daughters.

Lloyd married Vicky Rurka in 1955. They took over the family farm after his parents moved to Holden, then moved to Edmonton where Lloyd is presently employed. They had four children and two grandchildren.

Gertie married Bill Chupka in 1950. They farmed in the Poe District, then in 1960 purchased land northeast of Holden where they reside today. Gertie operates the Drive-In during the summer months. They have two daughters, Colleen and Karen.

Natalie married Bill Ogonoski in 1956. They farmed south of Holden, then moved to Edmonton where both are employed. They have two sons, Brent and Darcy.

Shirley married Grant Grosland in 1961. Grant is a Contractor. They have four daughters, and the family resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

Judy was born in 1947 and passed away in 1948 at the age of nine months.

Tillie passed away in August, 1978 and John lives in Holden.

Pooke, Nick

Nick Pooke was born in the Ukraine in 1881 and immigrated to Canada in 1906. He worked on the railroad at Edmonton for two years, then moved to the Borschiw district to live with his half brother, Harry Suchy.



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Pooke 1948.

In 1908 he married Annie Yacula who had come to Canada with her parents from the Ukraine in 1902. They settled on a homestead north of Haight, Alberta and farmed there until 1918 when they sold their land, and purchased another farm six miles east of Borschiw in the Myroslaw district. They were blessed with seven sons and four daughters.

John married Tillie Zuk of Inland, Alberta. (Refer to John Pooke history).

Peter N. married Ann Sydor of Holden. They are retired and live in Vegreville, Alberta.

Bill married Nydia Horn of Mundare, Alberta. They are retired and live in Camrose, Alberta.

Paul enlisted in the army in 1940 and served until 1945. In 1946 he married Sophie Zuk of Mundare, Alberta and they farmed southwest of Vegreville. Paul passed away in 1967 and Sophie resides on the farm.

Clara married Nick Bilyk of Holden. (Refer to Nick Bilyk history.)

Harry is retired and resides in Holden.



The Nick Pooke family 1948.

Mary married Peter Owcher of Radway, Alberta. They are retired and reside in Camrose, Alberta.

Alec married Florence Michlich in 1949. He was a barber in Vegreville, and later moved to Holden. Alec passed away in 1966 and Florence lives in Holden and is employed at the Senior Citizen's Lodge.

Metro resides in Holden and is employed part time by the A.L.C.B.

Minnie married James Tymchak of Holden. (Refer to James Tymchak history.)

Olga married John Osadchuk of Vegreville, Alberta, and they farm in the area southwest of Vegreville.

There are twenty-seven grandchildren, forty-eight great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

In 1950 Mr. and Mrs. Pooke retired from active farming, but continued to live with their son Harry who had taken over the operation of the family farm. Nick was hospitalized shortly after his retirement, and after a lengthy illness, passed away in 1957.

In 1952, Mrs. Pooke moved to the Village of Holden and lives with her son Metro.

Pooke, Peter

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pooke came to Canada in 1910, and were married in Ottawa in 1911. They came west to Alberta, and first settled in the Round Hill area, where Peter worked in the coal mine for several years. Later they farmed in the Haight district and pursued this occupation for forty years until their retirement in 1967.



50th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pooke.

Their family consisted of six sons and four daughters: Mary (Mrs. Steve Pankiew) of Edmonton, passed away in 1959, a son Steve in 1963 and Nick of Edmonton in 1980. Their surviving children are: Mike of St. Paul, Tony of Vegreville, Joe and Stanley of Holden, Katie (Mrs. Paul Tomko) of Spirit River, Annie (Mrs. Leon Kozrowski) and Vera (Mrs. Walter Smook) of Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Pooke celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1961, with a large gathering of family and friends. After their retirement they moved to Vegreville where they lived until their passing, Mr. Pooke in 1968 at the age of 79 and Mrs. Pooke in 1981 at the age of 90.

Poshtar, Michael

by Annette Chrystian

My great grandparents are Michael and Mary Poshtar. Michael was born in the village of Komochkiw, county of Brody, West Ukraine,, in 1886.



Michael and Mary Poshtar.

At the age of twenty four he left for Canada. He left Komochkiw by train to Rotterdam (in the Netherlands) to board the ship to sail to Canada. He sailed on water for sixteen days, and landed at Quebec in April of 1911. Then he travelled by train and arrived in Calgary in May. There he stayed with friends while he looked for work. He got a job on the section on an extra gang for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He worked for only four months and earned \$18.00. Then he came back to Calgary and did some ditching before freeze-up.

In 1912, Michael left for Mundare to work on a farm during the summer months. For the winter months he came back to Calgary to stay with his friends. When he went to Mundare the next year, he worked on the section. This is where he met Mary Rogalski.

In 1914, he married Mary, daughter of John and Eva Rogalski, at Mundare, Alberta. Mary was born in 1899, and she was the oldest of eight children.

Michael and Mary then made their home on an 80 acre farm in the Haight district. He cleared the land by axe, using the logs for building, poles and firewood. They built a log house in which they lived till 1922, when he traded his land for a quarter section with 25 acres broken. They moved their house to this quarter section.

They were blessed with eleven children, three boys and eight girls. In 1942, when he lost his wife, the youngest child was six years old. He raised her all alone.



The Poshtar family: Ethel, Lillian, Elizabeth, Anne, Olga and Henry.

In 1965 he sold his farm and moved to Edmonton to live with his youngest daughter.

In 1978 he moved to live in the Hardisty Nursing Home in Edmonton where he presently resides. He will be ninety seven years old on his next birthday and is doing very well. Mary is buried in the Borschiw Cemetery.

Their eleven children are: Ethel, Bill, Katherine, Elizabeth, Anne, Olga, Henry, Tony, Lillian and twin girls deceased at infancy.

My grandmother Ethel, was born in 1915. She married John Umrysh from Holden in 1939, and they had seven children. (See John Umrysh story).

Bill was born in 1916. When he left the farm he went to work for the Canadian National Railway until his passing in 1972.

Katherine born in 1918, married Bill Laibida from Mundare, in 1940. They farmed in the Mundare area for a while then moved north of Bruce. They had three children: Ernie, Phyllis and Alvin and four grandchildren. Bill passed away in 1968 and Katherine in 1978. They are buried in the Bruce Cemetery.

Anne born in 1921, married George Petruszczak in 1953. They have two daughters Christine and Susan. They reside in Edmonton.

Elizabeth born in 1924 married John Pozerniuk in 1943, and they had three children. (See John Pozerniuk history).

Olga born in 1925 married Orville Rokos in 1945. They had three children: Shirley, Gladys and Arnold. Orville passed away in 1953. She has five grandchildren. She married George Sysak and now they are living in Edmonton.

Henry was born in 1926, and married Anne Mayko from Hilliard, Alberta in 1951. They have three sons Richard, Dennis and David and two grandsons. They reside in Edmonton and Henry is employed for the C.N.R.

Tony, born in 1927, married Frances Nedbaluik from Westlock in 1951. They had two sons Ronald and Dennis. Tony worked for the Royal Canadian Airforce. He passed away in 1973.

Lillian the youngest, was born in 1936. She married Joe Eschak from Mundare in 1956. They have one daughter Linda. Lillian works in a jewellery store and they are living in Edmonton.

Pozerniuk, John and Elizabeth and Family

In 1910, John, the fourth and youngest child was born to Daniel and Catharina (nee — Welycka) Pozerniuk of Chornohintzy, Weliki, Ukraine. At the age of 18, this brave young lad set sail to the Western World. The C.N.R. provided employment for John as he worked his way from Halifax through Canada. Near Haight, he settled down at his eldest brother's farm (Mike and Annie Pozerniuk). There he worked as a farm hand for Mike and neighboring farmers.

In 1923, Elizabeth the fifth child of nine, was born to Michael and Mary (nee — Rogalsky) Poshtar of Mundare. This young athletic farm girl attended Moscow School. In 1938 she won a trophy for her outstanding over-all performance in a regional track and field meet.



Pozerniuk family, 1959. John, Joseph, Margaret, Emily and Elizabeth.

In the midst of a cold winter in 1943, John Pozerniuk and Elizabeth Poshtar were wed. They rented land from Mark Tymchuk, twelve miles from Vegreville to set up their first farm. In the fall of 1944 their first daughter, Emily was born.

Spring of 1946 brought excitement to John and Elizabeth. They had saved enough money to purchase two quarters of land near Holden (N.W. 28-48-15-W4). That fall their second daughter, Margaret Rose, was born. In 1949 they were blessed with a son, Joseph Daniel.

Farming with horses was tedious and difficult. However, this was all changed in the early 1950's when they purchased their first car and tractor.

They were avid members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Holden. Both John and Elizabeth took active roles as presidents of the respective men's and women's auxiliary leagues of the church.

Emily and Margaret began their formal education at West Bruce School. Years later all three children graduated from Holden High with Senior Matriculation. They all went on to University of Alberta enrolling in the Faculty of Education. It was at U. of A. all three met their future spouses.



Back Row: Boris Wozimirsky, Boris Stashko, Joe Pozerniuk. 2nd Row: Emily Stashko, Elizabeth Pozerniuk, Stephen Wozimirsky (Baby), Margaret Wozimirsky, Maureen Pozerniuk. 1st Row: Pamela Stashko, Michael Wozimirsky, Sherri Pozerniuk, Holly Pozerniuk, Lisa Stashko, Brian Stashko.

Emily, with three years of training taught Household Ec. in Ryley. She married Boris Stashko from Vegreville in 1965. They reside on an acreage near Sherwood Park. They have three children: Lisa Lynne, Pamela Rose, and Brian Michael. Margaret, after receiving her B.Ed. taught elementary in Ryley and Edmonton. In 1970 she married Boris Wozimirsky of Redwater. They have two sons Michael John and Stephen Andrew and live in Sherwood Park. Upon completion of his B.Ed. Joe taught Industrial Arts in Ryley. He married Maureen McTurk from Wainwright in 1972. They too, live in Sherwood Park, with their two daughters: Sherri Lynn and Holly Andrea. He teaches Ind. Arts at Archbishop Jordan High School.

In the wee hours of Christmas Eve, 1972. John Pozerniuk passed away. He was laid to rest in the Holden Catholic Cemetery. Elizabeth moved to Viking in 1973. Presently she enjoys working at the Viking Hospital as a nursing assistant and in Central Sterile Supply.

Pudlowski, Mike

Mike Pudlowski was born in Poland. In 1924 at the age of nineteen he came to Canada by boat. He left behind five brothers and two sisters. He first settled and homesteaded different places in Saskatchewan for six years. In the fall of 1934 he moved to Vilna, Alberta. This trip took twenty-three days for four hundred and fifty miles. They had two wagons, six horses, three colts and a buggy. His nephew was with him. In November 1935 Mike married Aleksandra Tkachyk. They farmed in Vilna for eleven years. They had three children, Peter, Edward and Allan.

In the fall of 1946 they moved to Reward School District. The home place is NE 5-47-15-W4. Here they farmed for twenty-one years. In the fall of 1967 Mike and Aleksandra moved to Daysland. Peter is farming the home place now.

Peter married Donna Gamroth in November 1966. They have four children, Stanley, Danny, Timothy and Rosanne. Edward is unmarried and is employed as an orderly in St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton. Allan married Mary Stansis in August 1969. They are farming north of Strome in Flagstaff county. They have two sons Gregory and Gerry.

Puk, Peter and Annie

by Victor Puk

Dad was born in 1912, one of eleven children born to Nick and Ann Puk. At that time the family lived one mile west of Borschiw Church; they later moved to a location ten miles north of Holden.



Peter and Annie Puk, 1939.

He first met my mother in 1930, while he was working with a threshing crew. Her name was Annie, daughter of Alex and Mary Sydor. They were married in 1939. Dad was given a quarter of land on which they built their first house and other farm buildings. These were built of logs. They built a new home in 1967.

Their first son, Erny, was born in 1941. He began his education in Adams school, living that year with his grandparents, the Alex Sydors. After that, the bus system came into being and we all attended Holden School. Erny also attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture, graduating in 1962. He was employed by the Department of Highways for a number of years and now operates his own business in Edmonton. He married Louise Pasheka of Vegreville in 1967. Raymond, born in 1946, left school to farm with his father. He married Annie Zaplachinski in 1974 and they presently farm his grandfather's (Alex Sydor's) home place. They have two sons, Preston and Russel.

Rosemary was born in 1955. After graduating from high school, she attended Alberta College and later worked as a medical secretary. She married David Komarnisky of Holden in 1975 and they live in St. Albert. Their two daughters are Shannon and Andrea.



Peter and Annie Puk, 1945.

I (Victor) was born in 1950. After graduating from high school, I chose farming as my occupation. As a youngster, I attended catechism classes which were held at Myroslaw school and Borschiw Hall and also attended a summer camp at Pigeon Lake. In 1975, I married Marion Sorochan, and we settled on my father's home place where we still farm. We have three children, Jason, Melanie and Michelle.

Our parents are now retired and living in Vegreville.

Raeder, Rudolf and Rosie

Already in their later years, Rudolf and Rosie Raeder purchased a farm two miles north-west of Holden in 1940. Rudolf had previously been a coal miner in Drumheller and west of Edmonton. In 1960, they retired and moved into Holden. Rudolf enjoyed capentry as his hobby, while Rosie loved flowers and gardening. Their house and yard were a beautiful sight in Holden for many years. Rosie actively enjoyed the Friendship Group.

Following Rudolf's death in 1972, Rosie moved into a senior's apartment in Edmonton. She now resides in a nursing home in Leduc. The couple raised one adopted son, Billy, who now lives in northern B.C.



Rudolf and Rosie Raeder, 1962.

The Renn Story

by Sarah Otto (nee Renn)

My father, August Renn, was born in the German sector of Poland, known as Wolhynien, in 1879. He married Emilie (original spelling Emlige) Lutz in

1900 and they farmed there. In the year following their marriage, they had a son William. He was their pride and joy. At the age of three he died of pneumonia. Their loss was great but they looked forward to the birth of another son. In 1906 Olga was born. Two years later, another girl, Ernestina (Tina), came along.



Mr. and Mrs. August Renn, 1924.

Dad said the next one would surely be a boy. Then, I, Sarah was born. Another girl! That was almost more than he could take. He ran over to the neighbors and said, "We had very bad luck today." When he was asked what the bad luck was, he said, "Another girl was born to us!"

In the spring of 1912 Dad and some other young men from the community decided to find their fortune in America and then send for their families when they had earned money for their passage. As money was scarce, Dad worked his way across on a cattle ship. He landed at New York and worked on a farm for two years. My mother's brother, Fred Lutz, came to Canada. Father joined him at Holden where Fred Lutz had rented a farm from George Mohler. After his arrival in Holden, Dad worked for George Mohler and Hans Huseby.

By the time Dad had enough money to send for us, war had broken out in Europe. In 1915 all of the German people were sent out of Poland to Siberia. We were among those who had to go. We lost Dad's address in the move and were out of touch with him for a couple of years. In 1918 some of the German people were allowed to go back to Wolhynian again.

We were among them, but we could not get our farm back. In 1919 we finally got Dad's address and we wrote to him. Then Russia and Germany invaded Wohlynian so we couldn't leave. It was 1921 before Dad could start working on our passports and after a year we finally got them.

We arrived in Holden in 1922. We came by train late in the evening and were met by the hotel owner. He told us that Dad had asked him to put us up at the hotel until he could come for us. As we were tired and did not expect Dad, we got ready for bed. At 11:00 P.M. there was a knock at the door. There was Dad and Hans Huseby. After a joyful reunion, we got into Mr. Huseby's topless Model T Ford and drove to the Huseby farm which Dad had rented. It was thirteen miles south-west of Holden in the Palmer District.

We arrived there about 1:00 A.M. There to greet us was a one room shack. It had just been built. There were blankets over the windows in place of glass. The next morning when we looked out there was nothing but brush around. Mother started to cry. A week after we arrived, we received our first visitors. They were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kruger, and Mr. and Mrs. George Mohler. They brought us some of their fine baking and some extra clothing.

Dad already had some cows and horses so we all got busy and built a log barn with a straw roof. That straw roof was wonderful. The rain continued in the log barn long after the sun had begun to shine again. Tina and I went to Palmer School. Then came our first taste of Canadian winter. One day when I walked to school I froze my feet so badly that Miss Nicholson, the teacher, had one of the boys, Oscar Afseth, take me home with his team and cutter. When we got my shoes off, Mother soaked my feet in coal oil. My feet were so swollen that I could not walk for a while. After I could walk, only Dad's bedroom slippers would fit my oversized feet. During my convalescence, Miss Nicholson brought my school work home to me.

When spring came we were a lot happier. Our first harvest in 1923 was a thrill for us as we had never seen such a huge steam engine or such a big threshing crew before. There were seventeen men. To feed them all in such a tiny shack was a real experience. Mrs. Kruger came to help. After harvest was over, Olga went to Edmonton to work at Swift's Packing Plant.

In 1924 Dad bought the Jacobson farm (S.W. 36-48-16-W4) which was half mile east and three miles south of Holden. There were no buildings on it so we lived on the Fred Lutz farm, which was south-west of our farm, while we built a barn and a house on our place. Then we bought a three room shack from Bill McLeod and moved it onto our farm. Dad and Mom were happy to have their own place.

Tina and I were always along with Dad brushing and breaking land. In 1925 Tina went out working, and I was alone to be Dad's helper. A few years later, Dad bought the Fred Lutz farm and also the Charlie Jones farm N.E.36-48-16-W4. The Jones farm was eventually sold to Nick Pasnak.

Dad and I worked the land with horses as he had absolutely no use for tractors, cars, or any other motorized equipment. His dislike of motors led to a little episode with Ken James, our machine agent. Ken, who also sold cars, claimed that he was a top salesman. Every time I came for repairs, he wanted to give me a driving lesson. "If you learn to drive a car," he told me, "I'll be able to sell one to your Dad." One day the driving lesson talk came up again. Finally I said, "You sell Dad a car. Then I will learn to drive." That afternoon Ken came to our place. I was outside.

"Come in," he boasted, "and watch me sell the car." I told him I would wait outside until he came out.

After an hour, Ken came out and got into his car. "Wait a minute!" I said. "When do I start my driving lessons?"

Ken shook his head. "Your dad is a hard nut to crack when it comes to cars and tractors." Mr. James said no more about my driving lessons.

In 1927, Olga married Fred Grinde who farmed north-east of Holden. In December of the same year, Tina married Albert Otto who farmed north-east of Bruce. I stayed home until 1935. Then I went to work in Edmonton as a housekeeper for the John Hugill family. Mr. Hugill was the Attorney General of Alberta at the time. After I left, Dad found a boy, Sam Lytwin to help him with the chores. Sam had run away from home and was too young to get a job. Dad took him home. He took the place of the lost son.

Sam was with the folks until he joined the army in 1939. After serving overseas for two years, he came back to my parents again and rented their farm.

Meanwhile I had married Karl Otto (no relation



August and Amelia Renn with daughters Ernestine, Sarah and Olga.

to Albert Otto) in 1937, and we moved to his farm just out of Bruderheim. Our son Clifford was born while we lived there. In 1946 we moved to Edmonton where our second son, Dennis, was born. In 1949, we purchased a farm south-east of Westlock where we farmed until 1960.

My sister Olga died in 1954. In the fall of that year Dad had a stroke and did not fully recover. My parents then bought a house in Holden. Mrs. George Christian currently lives in that house. About that time, Sam got a letter from his own father asking him to come and take over the home place at Rocky Rapids. He did. The farm was then rented to Alex Steinwand. In 1957 Albert and Tina retired to Camrose so my parents sold the house in Holden and bought one in Camrose just across the street from Albert's. My father died in 1959 and the farms were sold to John and Emily Tkaczyk. My sister Tina died in 1960. Karl and I then moved into the town of Westlock where my mother, Emilie, came to live with us. Mother died in 1963 at the age of 87 years.

Karl and I are now retired and live in the town of Westlock. Our eldest boy, Clifford is married and living in Edmonton with his wife Connie and their two daughters. He is currently a reading specialist with the Edmonton Public School Board. Dennis, the younger boy, is unmarried and is working with a cabinet manufacturing firm in Edmonton.

Richardson, Arkle by Ralph Richardson

Arkle Richardson with his wife Evelyn and two sons Ralph and Ronald moved from Cereal to Holden in 1932. Arkle assumed the principalship of the school. He held this post for five years and then moved to Ryley and subsequently to Lindbrook and Tofield. He died at Tofield in 1956. Evelyn Richardson at the age of 93 is residing in Lacombe.

Ralph is a retired deputy superintendent of



Ronald, Evelyn, Ralph and Arkle Richardson.

schools who is living in Lacombe. He has three children two sons and a daughter.

Ronald is a petroleum engineer, employed by Chevron, who is in charge of oil exploration for Canada. He has two sons. His home is in Calgary. His military career was spent in C.O.T.C. during 1941-1945 while at University and in the regular army in 1945.

When we moved to Holden there were no homes available for rent so for the first year we lived in the old bakery on main street which was located next to Stewart's old drug store and the old post office. At a later date this building became Pon's Cafe. It was not unusual on a Saturday to receive unexpected callers who thought the building was still a business and would open the front door and walk in.

A year later we were able to move to a house owned by Dr. Farrell, previously occupied by Al Stewart. Edworthys lived on the east side of us and Sam Halton (cousin of Mathew Halton) and later Wilsons lived on the west side. Farrell's Garage operated by Richard Farrell was across the street. Our house was located second from the end, on the south side of the first block west of the cenotaph.

The teaching staff consisted of Ronola McPherson, Isabella Briggs, Mrs. Claire Selkirk and Arkle Richardson. School was held in the old two storey brick building with grades 1-6 downstairs and grades 7-12 upstairs. Olive Thrasher later replaced Ronola McPherson and her musical talent was a real boon to school life and the community.



Arkle and Evelyn Richardson — 35th Wedding Anniversary.

Entertainment at that time was largely produced by the local community. Some excellent operettas and three-act plays were produced. In the winter the Gas Line Hockey League and curling held community interest. The new community hall was ideal for school Christmas programs as well as community dances and movies on a weekly basis.

Some of my earliest memories are those of the United Church and the part it played in the community. Rev. Bosomworth was the minister when we came to Holden and Al Stewart was Superintendent of the Sunday School. They were followed by Rev. Bell and Mrs. Beth Campbell in the Sunday School. My mother taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and was an active member of the Ladies' Aid. My father also taught Sunday School and was a member of the Church Board. Nora Villetard was a tower of strength as secretary treasurer of the Sunday School. The Ladies' Aid held an annual chicken supper and bazaar. The whole town supported this endeavor as well as the Lutheran lutefisk supper and the C.W.L. annual supper. One year at an annual chicken supper the ladies serving table asked me what kind of pie I would like. I replied "my mother's pie please". Mom took a lot of teasing in the kitchen when they went back to bring my pie. They told her she had her children well trained to ask for her pie.

The annual school festival held in Vegreville was another highlight that we looked forward to with great anticipation. John Thieme worked faithfully training us in choral and solo work. Practice was held in the old town hall which was on the second floor above the Masonic Hall next to the United Church. It seemed to take the whole town to transport us to Vegreville in cars in rain or shine. This led to some very exciting trips over muddy roads. Mrs. Forsyth, the telephone operator would be consulted prior to the "Big Day" to enquire if she had her fire dream, which meant success at the festival. All the schools in the Vegreville inspectorate participated in the festival. The Vegreville merchants provided ice cream cones for all the students. The crowning event was to be chosen to perform in the grand concert at night. The excitement was high and the competition keen.

Another highlight for boys at that time was the organization of Tuxis and Trail Rangers by Arne Lane, later led by George Shieman, the station agent. The boys met regularly in the United Church basement on Friday evenings. The boys had their own hockey team and baseball team and competed with teams at Viking, Ryley and Tofield. They raised funds for all the boys to attend summer camp at Camp Lake located northeast of Viking. These funds were raised by an annual fish and chips supper. The success of this event was due in large part to Jean Ritland (Mrs. Lars Ritland) and Nina (Mrs. Lewis) Ritland and mothers who contributed pies and condiments. The Tuxis and Trail Rangers were responsible for peeling potatoes, setting tables, serving and kitchen help. Jean and Nina taught us how to fillet fish and cube potatoes for chips.

An unforgettable character, T. Thompson the

town policeman, was kept particularly busy on Saturday nights when all of the farm families came to town and stores were open until 11:00 p.m. There was a great mingling of town and country children who enjoyed the activities downtown and some of their own in the alleys. A town curfew was put into effect requiring children of a certain age to be home by 9:00 o'clock. This really kept Taale Thompson busy chasing children, trying to implement the town curfew. Many tricks were played on him in the process.

Those depression years are recalled with many pleasant and happy memories.

Ritland, Jacob and Family

**compiled by: Nina Dutour, Raymond Ritland,
Bertha Nohr and Lawrence Ritland**

Jacob L. Ritland raised nine children near the Black Hills, better known today as Pierre, South Dakota. In the summer of 1902, Jacob came to Canada with most of his family, leaving one girl, Ellen, back in the States. The names of the children who came to Canada are; Carrie (Bratrud), Anna (Hanson), Lars, Andrew, Bertha (Prohaska), Juliette (Kabesh), Lewie and Berlietta (Shaw).



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ritland.

They first landed in Wetaskiwin. After gathering together their belongings they brought from South Dakota, they travelled on the wagon trail that was known in those days as the "Battleford Trail". Jacob and his family set up temporary living quarters on his homestead (S.W. 32-48-16), and built a large log house.

Church services were held there each Sunday, with the congregation consisting of settlers, and often travellers. Most of these services were conducted by a travelling minister, but in the absence of a regular preacher, Jacob himself would conduct the service.

Jacob Ritland was instrumental in organizing the Vermillion Valley School district, and his daughter Anna (Hanson) was the first teacher to teach there, from 1906 to 1908.

The Ritland family continued farming the homestead until the boys went out on their own. In 1912 Jacob built the first blacksmith shop in Holden, and operated it until his passing in 1936, with the exception of a few years when he lived near Ryley.



Jacob Ritland beside his blacksmith shop on the homestead.



Jacob Ritland family — 1928. Back Row: Lewie Ritland, Andrew, Lars. Front Row: Juliette Kabish, Bertha Prohaska, Mrs. Ritland, Mr. Ritland, Berlietta Shaw, Anna Hanson, Carrie Bratrud.

Carrie married Thomas Bratrud (see their story).

Anna was born in 1885 in Adams county, Iowa. After the family settled on a homestead at Holden, she attended the only high school in Edmonton from 1904 to 1906. Her ambition was to become a teacher, and in 1906 she enrolled in the first class of the Calgary Normal School. Her teaching assignments included Beaver Hill School, north of Tofield, and Lake Thomas and Cromer schools near Viking. In 1910 Anna married Hans Emil Hanson. They settled on a homestead north of Viking where they raised a family of five boys and three girls. Today the children and grandchildren of that family number thirty-eight.

Lars (his story is elsewhere in the book).

Andrew homesteaded the SE 16-47-14. He married Minnie Wolf of Holden in 1914. They had two children, Jacob and Bertha. He moved to Everett, Washington around 1913, where he operated a blacksmith shop in a pulp and paper mill until his passing in 1952.

Bertha married Emil Prohaska. They homesteaded NW 14-47-14 in 1906. They had three children, Harry, Ethel and Eleanor. They moved to Washington, U.S.A. in 1921 or 1922.

Juliette married Charles Kabesh in 1913. He had homesteaded NW 10-47-14 in 1904 on which they resided. Their children are; Louis, born in 1913 and John, born in 1916. They live in New Westminster, B.C.

Berlietta married Arnold Shaw and they lived in Strome, Alberta. Two children were born there, Mildred and Trevere. Another child was born in Washington, U.S.A. where they later lived.



Lewie Ritland family: Nina, Lawrence, Maxine, Bertha, Dolores, Lewie. Front Row: Elton Nohr, Raymond Ritland, Carole Nohr.

Lewie Ritland worked with his brother Lars on ranches in southern Alberta with renowned cowboys such as Pat Burns, Chris Barch and Jack Morton.

This was in 1912. In 1916 he returned to Holden and started farming southeast of Holden, (SW 25-48-16). He married Lucy Sizer and they had two children, Bertha (Nohr) and Lawrence. But in the disastrous years of the flu, Lucy passed away. Lewie made arrangements with relatives to care for the children.

Lewie continued farming and travelled rodeos as a bronc riding contestant and eventually teamed up with other bronc riders such as Jack Coates, and Charlie and Bud Sizer. During these rodeos these men mostly always took top money. One of the most exciting wins was at the Queenie Creek rodeo in 1919, when Lewie won the all around rodeo championship with a top prize, a regulation contest roping saddle, "Calgary Red". Lewie and his brother Lars were well known in the rodeo world, Lars for his exceptional ability at roping, and Lewie for his saddle bronc riding. In the early years, Lewie with other rodeo contestants and local business men, was instrumental in organizing the Bruce Stampede.

In 1927, while Lewie and his two children were visiting his brother Andrew at Everett, Washington, his barn burned down. A good many barn dances were held in this barn during the 1920's.

In 1928 Lewie married Nina Nohr, and brought his children, Bertha and Lawrence back home. That spring Lewie needed a hired man, and hired a young man who had just arrived from England. His name was Bill Johnstone. He was a coal miner and knew nothing about farming. Lewie and Nina did everything to teach him the different aspects of farming, which sometimes provided cause for a lot of laughter. Lewie let Bill go in the fall of 1929. We had grown fond of this young chap, and it was like one of our family leaving.

The fall of 1929 was the beginning of the hard times. Lewie and Lars gathered their young work horses, and took them to the Willingdon, Alberta area, as there were sales for horses there and it meant money in the pocket. On one of these trips, Lewie got a premonition on his second day away, and rode back home some sixty miles, as Nina was expecting. He arrived home at midnight and Raymond was born the next morning (1929).

The spring of 1930 brought another member to the Ritland farm; a young man of 19, his name was Mike Dochniak. He worked for Lewie off and on for 13 years until he joined the armed forces in 1943. After the war Mike came back for a short period in 1946. He then worked in the oil fields for next 14 years. He later bought a farm near Drayton Valley, Alberta, and eventually bought and sold farms at Evansburg and Wildwood. He now resides in the Shangri-La Lodge in Drayton Valley.

Everyone remembers the "dirty thirties", real

hard times for many, but our family never suffered, as Lewie played the grain exchange, and put horses and driver on the construction of Highway #14 near Holden.

In 1931 a daughter, Delores was born to Nina and Lewie, and in 1933 another daughter, Maxine was born.

Lewie was a clever, kind, outgoing person and was not afraid of hard work. He continued farming and eventually built another large barn. The new barn had a round roof, one of the first in that area. He built a good floor in the loft and started having barn dances again. These dances became very popular and people came from miles around and danced till well after the sun came up the next day. Music was supplied by local musicians which made up the dance band.

The Ritlands experimented in growing fruit trees on their farm and were successful in producing apples, cherries and numerous other small fruits. They also planted spruce trees which provided shelter for their farmyard.

Lewie and Nina's children attended Vermillion Valley School until the spring of 1941, when Lewie acquired a home in Holden. Then Raymond, Delores and Maxine went to school there. Lewie continued farming the land and raising livestock until 1949 when the farm was sold to Nick Pasnak.



Lawrence Ritland 1939.

In 1950 they bought a business in Vulcan, Alberta. A progressive business loomed until they sold out in 1959. They moved to Calgary for a short time, then to Vancouver in 1960. Lewie dealt in real estate there until his passing in 1963. Nina remarried and now lives in Abbotsford, B.C.

Bertha Ritland married Tellof Nohr in 1935. They went to Glendon to live where Tellof had purchased homestead land along the Beaver River. Having acquired five head of cows from Lewie and Nina as a wedding present, it wasn't long before there was a good sized herd of ranch cattle. Two children were born here, Carole and Elton. During the war years teachers were scarce and the nearest school was five miles away. The farm was rented for a few years and later sold. The children started school in Holden. While here the Holden High School Dormitory above Liden's store was their home, where they shared meals with twenty-one high school boys and girls for several years. Carole married Edward Waugh of Edmonton and had three children, Robert, Karen and Gordon. Elton married Joyce Walters, and they have a family of four, Shannon, Sherri, Alan and Brian.

Lawrence Ritland was born in 1920. He was active on the rodeo circuit in his early teens until he was engaged in active service overseas. He operated a machine shop in Holden after his return. He married Hilda Blomberg of Hay Lakes. They had two daughters, Shiela, who resides in Edmonton, and Darice (Krummel) who lives in Australia. Larry is still working in the machine business and resides in Edmonton.

Raymond Ritland enrolled in the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1949 in the field of electrical technology. After completing the course in 1952, he travelled the construction world until 1954 when he married Dorain Thompson. He continued working in electrical construction and maintenance, then in 1959 joined the staff of Alberta Gas Trunk Line Co. (Nova). He lived in Calgary until he was transferred to Edmonton in 1980.

Delores Ritland, after finishing high school in Holden, attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary where she studied pattern drafting and tailoring. After graduation she taught the trade in Calgary for a time. As there was a greater demand for designers in the States, she moved to Seattle in 1955 where she became employed with Kendal Manufacturing. In 1963 she moved to Portland, Oregon, where she met and married Walt Peters. During the early 1970's they travelled with various construction jobs, and later settled in Carlton, Oregon. They had one son, Deryk, born in 1966. Delores lost her husband in 1981. She and her son continue to live in Carlton.

Maxine Ritland completed high school at Vulcan and entered nurses training at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, graduating in 1955. She continued her career in the U.S.A. until she met and married a sailor by the name of Robert Hallars in 1956. They moved to Charlotte, North Carolina and a few years later to Boone, N.C. where Robert went into business. Their home is in the Blue Ridge Mountains where they raised two children, Jane and Robin. Maxine travels into many counties of North Carolina where she has clinics and specializes in glaucoma and cataracts. She and her family make frequent visits to Alberta and B.C.

Ritland, Lars

Lars Ritland was born in 1888 in Charles Mix County, South Dakota. In 1902, at the age of 14, he took part in his first roundup. He came to Canada in 1903 with his parents and family to a homestead seven miles southwest of Holden, SW 32-48-16. A store was built by W. S. Adams about six rods from the Ritland house. Jacob Ritland, Lars' father, built a store about four rods from his house which was run by Willoughbys. The first store burned down in 1905.



Lars Ritland — 1910.

Lars went to Gleichen in 1906 and worked for the LX Ranch for two years, 1906-07 was the "hard winter". When his mother became ill in 1908, he came back to Holden and stayed until the spring of 1910. He then rode south again to work for a horse rancher named Jack Morton who at times had seven thousand head of horses. These horses were so wild that they could not be coralled near town between

Calgary and Medicine Hat so they branded them at ranches along the way. After two years he came back and worked the homestead, NE 32-48-16, that he had filed on previous to going south. He married Elizabeth Lowry in 1913 and they had a son, John and a daughter, May. They purchased the W½ of 33-48-16 from the CPR and moved the buildings over there. Lars, who loved horses and always had a large number of them, had his horse brand for sixty one years. Two stampedes were staged on his home place and he was one of the founders of the Bruce Stampede. As of 1978, he remembered missing only one stampede, and in the early days, he and his brother Lewis both rode and were pickup men. Lars, who was a very good rider and roper broke all his own horses and worked for a time for Wm. Campbell Sr. breaking horses. The flu of 1918 claimed the lives of his wife and infant daughter.

Lars was well known as a practical joker. Some of the neighbor ladies decided it was time to “turn the tables” on him. They stuffed sacks with hay and straw and dressed this “dummy” to look like a woman, complete with red hair. Then on the pretext of doing some cleaning, (Lars being a bachelor at the time), they sneaked it into the house through an upstairs window and put it in his bed. How they would like to have seen his face that night when he crawled into bed! Lars, being a opportunist and not to be outdone, found this “Dummy” a real ally. He often laughed about the time a friend decided to stay overnight. The fellow went upstairs, didn’t bother to light the lamp and sat down in the rocking chair next to the bed to take off his shoes. All of a sudden a pair of arms engulfed him and he discovered he was not the only occupant of the chair. There was the dummy with that perpetual smile on her face! Another time he made doughnuts for lunch at the South Holden Community Club. After passing a few around, he stood back and shook with pent-up laughter as he watched one person after the other trying to gracefully — or not so gracefully — get rid of the first bite. He had added “lots” of soda to the batter! One day Lars became the unsung hero of Holden. A woman came out of Hurum’s General Store, placed her baby and groceries in the buggy, then went to untie the horses from the hitching post. The horses suddenly bolted and headed north and around the corner towards the school, baby and all. Lars was on his horse in a flash, caught the runaway team and saved the baby unscathed. He always wished he had found out the lady’s name.

But Lars’s life was not all fun. The depression made life hard for everyone and he was no exception. He lost his only son, John in 1932 and his wife, Jean in 1938.



Lars and Margaret Ritland and Denise Good.

In 1943 he married Margaret Good and they lived on his farm until 1957 when they moved into Holden. Margaret, crippled with arthritis, loved sports and missed very few baseball or hockey games or wrestling matches on TV. She and Lars enjoyed visitors and many hours were spent playing cards. Margaret passed away in 1971 and that fall Lars decided to go to Vialta Lodge in Viking. After a cataract operation in 1978 his health gradually failed and he passed away in Extendicare in Viking in 1982.

Roberts, John E.

John E. Roberts was born in Pwllheli, Caernarvonshire, North Wales in 1882. As a young man, in 1903, he came to the United States via South Africa



Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roberts.

and worked his way to New York and Florida. He was in San Francisco shortly after the earthquake, and then went to Chicago, Winnipeg and Edmonton. Mr. Roberts was a journeyman carpenter and was in much demand during the pioneer days.

In 1912, he married Miss Eleanor Evans of Lansford, Pennsylvania. They resided in Edmonton until 1917.

Mr. Roberts was engaged as a carpenter by the Alberta Government and built many schools in the province including Holmdene, Evansburg, Hughenden, Greenshields, Elk Point, and Poe, schools. In 1916, he was inspired to go into farming, and in 1917, he purchased a half-section of land from the CPR N½ 31-49-16-W4 and moved Mrs. Roberts and their two small children, Elizabeth (Betty) and John (Jack), to this farm.

Mr. Roberts moved all their furniture and belong-



Mrs. John Roberts with John Jr. and Betty — 1917.

ings by wagon and horses; this took several days as there was only a mud trail. Mrs. Roberts and the children came by train. She had never lived on a farm and found many of the experiences very frightening.

After moving to the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had two more children, Margaret (Marnie) and Bryn.

The Roberts were active in all community affairs. Mr. Roberts was chairman of the Poe School Board from 1917 until all country schools were taken under the wing of "the consolidated school system". He was also a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge for over forty years.

In August, 1932, tragedy struck the Roberts fam-

ily when their daughter, Betty, and her friend, Gladys Kirklund, drowned in the CNR dam east of Holden. Betty had attended school in Holden.

After graduating from school, John Jr. assisted his father farming. In the spring of 1931, he worked in Dr. Farrel's garage for Mr. Weatherby. He joined Lord Strathcona's Horse in July, 1938, in Calgary. When World War II broke out, he went overseas. He married Nellie Perryman of Reigate, Surrey, England in 1943. Then he left for North Africa and Italy. He also served in France, Belgium and Holland before returning to Canada in December, 1945. John continued to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces until the fall of 1966, retiring with the rank of captain.

John and Nellie now live in West Vancouver, British Columbia and have three children. Margaret is an optician, and John and Bryn are both vice principals in British Columbia schools. Bryn married Karen Lawrence in 1974. Karen is also a teacher. They reside in North Vancouver.



Olaf and Margaret Bruce with daughters Betty and Cathryn and John Roberts on their 35th Wedding Anniversary.

Bryn Roberts graduated from Holden High School and then joined the RCAF in 1942. In 1943, he went overseas and was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer. He was lost over Germany in 1944 and is buried near Duisburg, Germany.

After graduating from Holden High School, Margaret (Marnie) was employed by the Alberta Government for five years. In 1946, she married Olaf Bruce, the travelling superintendant for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company. They have two daughters. Eliz-

abeth, who received her Ph.D. in Nursing Science in 1982, is an Associate Professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. She married Donald Davies in 1969. He is a counselling psychologist in Edmonton. Cathryn graduated from the University of British Columbia with a law degree in 1982. She is currently practising law with a Vancouver firm.

Margaret and Olaf lived in Edmonton until 1974, and they now reside in White Rock, British Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts resided in the Poe area until 1947, and then they retired to Edmonton. Mrs. Roberts passed away in 1970 and Mr. Roberts in 1972. They are both buried in the Ryley Cemetery.

Robertson, Anne

I had the privilege of teaching at Longridge School, east of Holden from 1936 to 1939 — having come from my old family home west of Crossfield.

Those were indeed among the very happy years of my life. I lived with the Crimmin Family south of the school. Being so kind and caring, they all spoiled me outrageously.

War clouds were over Europe and the world was in a deep recession — but the young in heart seldom think of such things.



Anne Robertson.

It is difficult to recall the highlights of that time as each week seemed to produce a bigger and better one. I think of my splendid, well behaved pupils — so able, active and anxious to learn.

I'll mention one project that we all toiled over for weeks and then, ended so happily. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) were to tour Canada so of course "The British Empire" filled our minds and hearts and days. The Canadian National Royal Train was to travel across Canada to Edmonton and beyond, passing so deliciously close to our school! A made to order excuse to invite them to pop in and visit and view our fabulous display! So — an invitation was promptly sent to Buckingham Palace in plenty of time. What excitement waiting for the reply — but gleefully knowing what the answer would be! Eventually it arrived on Royal beautiful stationery, addressed personally to our own pupil secretary. It did not matter that 'they were extremely sorry as time did not permit' — we'd had our moment of triumph in full measure! I should add that some of the parents thought "It won't be long now." Our reward — a day's holiday, to travel to Edmonton, sit in reserved seats to see the Royal Party. Crowds, cameras clicking, cheers, flags waving, a glorious day — and we could have touched them! No sleep that night — too excited with a dream come true!

No matter what request went forth in the community for help, there were always cheerful, willing hands, eager to assist. Perhaps a full attendance was needed for a special parents' afternoon at the school with total pupil participation; or a producer was required for a play; or a Christmas tree needed for that important "Concert of the Year" — with Santa included. So many wants: costumes to be made, organizers needed for picnics, dances, celebrations. All were met with that generous community spirit that prevailed.

Beautiful book-ends, one of the Christmas gifts from my pupils at Longridge, keep their presence and the good times ever near.

Robinson, William Henry

William Henry Robinson, a coal miner for thirty-eight years in Durham, England, arrived at Holden with his wife, Mary Jane, and six sons, Bill, Tom, Edwin, Wilfred, Harold and Ronald, in 1926.

They moved onto a farm two miles east of Holden in the Longridge District.

Their daughter, Martha and her husband Norman Richardson, came from England in 1927 but returned in 1928. They are now retired and live in Bradford, Yorkshire. They have five children, Kathleen, Arthur, Gladys, Ronnie and Margaret.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Robinson — 1938.

Bill stayed around Holden until 1932. Then he went east to Ontario and the Eastern States. He married in Scranton, Penn. He and his wife, Molly went to Scotland before the war and returned to Toronto in the early fifties where they now reside. They have three children, Mattie, Jean and Bill.

The Robinsons were active in the United Church Choir. Mrs. Robinson was an active member in both the Ladies Aid and the Longridge Busy Bees.

Tom, Ed and Wilf were members of the Holden Operetta Society which put on several Operettas during the 1930's.



Ron Robinson — 1944.

At the beginning of the second world war, Tom, Ed, Wilf and Harold joined the Armed Forces. Harold was killed overseas in 1943. Tom was invalided home in 1942. He returned to England in 1944 to be married. He and his wife Freda live in York, England and have two children, Mary and Keith.

Ed was married in England. He and his wife, Jane (Bunty), returned to Holden after the war and resided there until 1951 when they moved to Edmonton where Ed painted for Fruehauf Trailers. They raised two sons, Bob and Jim. Ed passed away in 1970. Bunty is still living in Edmonton.

Wilf was married in Holland. He and his wife, Kay, returned to Edmonton after the war and live there now. Wilf has been an auto body mechanic since then. They have five children, Judy, Ken, Clyde, Keith and Sidney.

Ron stayed on the farm during the war. When Mr. and Mrs. Robinson passed away in 1946, the farm was sold to Peter Mielamanka and Ron moved to Holden. He married Jean Appleby in 1950. They moved to Edmonton in 1951 where Ron has been a painter and maintenance mechanic for Northwest Industries. They have five children, Brian, Kathy, Dennis, Wendy and Gordon.

Roemer, Rev. Henry and Lydia by Lydia Roemer

Rev. Henry Roemer is a high school graduate of Wolseley, Saskatchewan and Mission House College, Plymouth, Wisconsin, and came as a student pastor in 1942 to serve the Salem Evangelical and Reformed church in the Adams School district northeast of Holden, and the Zion Evangelical and Reformed church in Brush Hill northeast of Vegreville.

In 1945 he was united in marriage to Lydia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Giebelhaus. Lydia



Reverend Henry Roemer family, 1978. Back Row: Al Goldammer, Harold Roemer, Dennis Schaefer. Front Row: Carolyn Goldammer, Henry and Lydia Roemer, Phyllis and Brenden Schaefer.

graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1936. She was the organist at Salem for many years.

While Rev. Roemer served the two churches he also attended the Seminary of the United Church of Canada in Edmonton, and graduated in absentia from Mission House Seminary at Plymouth in 1946 with a B.D. degree.

In 1946 Candidate Henry Roemer was examined and licensed by a committee. He was then ordained at the Salem Reform Church, Rev. C. Maurer was the presiding officer and gave a very appropriate sermon on the occasion. At the afternoon service Rev. Roemer was installed. Lydia supplied suitable music for the occasion. It was a combined service for both congregations. Friends from as far as Duffield, Stony Plain and Fort Saskatchewan took part in these services. An ordination service is well calculated to inspire young men of talent to consider a call to the Christian ministry. Rev. Roemer continued his ministry until 1958. He also served as interim pastor of the Mewassin Reformed Church at Duffield, Alberta.

In July 1958 he received a call from the Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church in Scotland, South Dakota. Accompanied by his wife Lydia and their children, Phyllis, Harold and Carolyn, he took up his ministry there in November 1958. In 1963 he and his family took up a pastorate at Friedens Reformed Church (now the United Church of Christ) at Tripp, South Dakota, where at present they are still active.

The children entered their various occupations. Phyllis graduated from S.D.S.U. in Brookings, South Dakota, with a major in Home Economics Education. She is married to Dennis Schaefer, also a teacher. They are both teaching in Platte, South Dakota. Their children are Brenden and Tanielle.

Harold graduated from the University of South Dakota with a BFA, B.Ed., and Master of Music Degree in applied voice. He taught for several years at a high school in Nebraska. Presently Harold is living in Calgary and is a real estate representative.

Carolyn graduated from S.D.S.U. in Bookings, South Dakota, with a major in Home Economics Education. She taught for several years in Del Rapids, South Dakota. She is married to Albert Goldammer, pastor in the American Lutheran Church at Redfield, South Dakota. Their children are Josiah and Talitha.

Martins will always be a place of treasured memories for us. We are saddened when we return occasionally to learn of the passing of another dear old friend. We still call Martins "back home".

Romaniuk, Harry

by Jean Romaniuk

Harry's parents, Anton and Anne Romaniuk came to Alberta in 1897 from the Ukraine, settling in the Wostok area. They had a family of three at the time, Harry, John and Mike. Nick, Steve, Jessie, Lena, Mary and Anne were born in Alberta.

In 1898 Bartko and Sophie Dziwenka came to the same area with their family of four, John, Anton, Anne and Maria. Because her brothers had to go out to work, Maria had to help her parents on the farm, therefore she didn't have the opportunity to attend school. Growing up with no knowledge of English was very difficult.



Nancy, Ann and Velma Romaniuk.

The families became acquainted, and Harry and Maria became very close friends. They were married in 1907, in Wostok. They lived near their parents, and worked the land together. Harry later owned a steam engine, with which he sawed lumber in the winter and threshed grain in the fall, helping neighbors for miles around.

Harry's two brothers owned land south of Vegreville. In 1921 he traded his land for theirs, and moved his family there. The land had to be brushed and ploughed. Maria worked very hard that year, helping build and clay plaster buildings. She had an outdoor oven which she used for baking bread.

Harry and Maria had five children, Nancy, Velma, Anne, Francis and Walter, all of whom at-



Harry Romaniuk family. Standing: Velma, Nancy, Walter, Anne, Frances, and Mr. and Mrs. Romaniuk.

tended school. However, the Romaniuks appreciated the language and culture of the Ukraine, so Harry taught his children to read and write at home. In 1935 they moved to a farm (S.E. 12-51-16) north of Holden, in the Myroslaw school district. They attended church in Borschiw, and the children sang in the church choir. They also took part in concerts that were held in the hall. They farmed there until 1959, when they moved to the town of Vegreville. Harry passed away in 1970, at the age of 79. Maria then went to live in the Homestead Lodge in Vegreville. She is 91 years old.



Nancy Rurka, Fred and Anne Faryna, Walter and Jean Romaniuk, Velma Letwin, Gunner and Frances Gunderson with mother Mrs. Romaniuk.

Nancy Romaniuk married Mike Rurka in 1930 (see Mike Rurka family history). Velma married James Letwin in 1934. They farmed in the St. Michael area for thirty years. When their family of seven children were grown, they sold their farm and moved to Lamont. James passed away in 1979,

Velma still lives in Lamont. Anne married Fred Faryna in 1936 (see Fred Frayna history). Francis married Paul Sadownyk of Mundare in 1936. They farmed there until Paul's health failed. He has been a patient in the Vegreville Auxiliary Hospital for some years, and Francis resides in Edmonton. They have two children.

Romaniuk, Walter

by Jean Romaniuk

Walter farmed with his dad for several years. In June, 1941 he married Jean Ogrodnick. They lived with his parents for five years. Their two children, Joyce and James were born there. His dad's home wasn't very big, so they bought two quarters of land, N½-1-51-16, next to his dad's place. There was no house there, so they moved into a shack. As the years went by more improvements were made to their farmstead. In 1954 they built a new home. John Laskoski of Holden was the carpenter, and the family helped. It took several years to finish their home, doing as much as was possible each year.



Jean and Walter Romaniuk.

Walter and Jean have four children. Joyce attended Myroslaw School, and when the school was closed, she attended school in Holden. She then attended McTavish College in Edmonton, and worked in Vegreville for several years. In 1965 she

married John Holowaychuk of Edmonton, where they now reside. They have two children, Colin and Jamie.

James also attended school in Myroslaw and Holden. He married Pat Zuk of Mundare in 1965. They live in Edmonton and have a family of two, Tyrone and Candice. James works at McMurray Store Fixtures, and Pat works for the provincial government.



Walter Romaniuk children. Back Row: James and Joyce, Barry and Leon.

Barry completed his high school education in Holden. He worked in Edmonton and is presently apprenticing as an electrician. He married Jeanette Pyzik of Bruce in 1980. Their home is in Sherwood Park.

Leon completed his apprenticeship as a heavy duty mechanic in 1982. He was married to Linda Mackay of Holden, and has one son, Lee.

Ronnie, Louie

Louie Ronnie came to Holden from North Dakota in 1910. He farmed in the Adams district until 1943, when the family moved to Winfield. Louie married Selma Nordstrom, in 1917 in the Adams district. They had one son Harry Edwin and one daughter, Olive Gertrude. They both attended Adams School. Louie passed away in 1947, and Selma in 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. Louie Ronnie on their wedding day — 1917.

Olive went to work in Edmonton and now lives in Drumheller. She has four daughters.

Harry joined the army in 1942. In 1946 he started farming after he got his discharge. In 1953 he married Orline Meadahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Meadahl. They have one daughter Audrey, and one son Michael. In 1959 they moved to Holden, where Harry is employed with U.F.A. Bulk.

Audrey married Dennis Danilak in 1973, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Danilak of Holden. They have one daughter Diane, and one son Trevor.

Michael married Janet Danilak, daughter of Mrs. Angela and the late William Danilak in 1981. They live in Edmonton where Michael is manager for Galazy Valve Repair.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ronnie, Audrey and Michael.

Ronsko, John and Alice

John Ronsko was born in Altario, Alberta. At a young age he moved with his parents to the Holden district and attended Sandstorm school. The family later moved to the Daysland area.

At the age of twenty, John purchased a truck and went into the trucking business. In 1954 he married Alice Cromik, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cromik of Daysland. They farmed in the Daysland area until 1965, when they purchased the Pete Nahir-



Alice and John Ronsko with their children, Sharon, Joanne, Doreen, Howard — 1980.

niak farm, south west of Holden. Here they farmed until 1981.

John and Alice had a family of four children. Joanne is married to Robert Govenlock and they live in Whitecourt. They have a sawmill and Robert is a mechanic. Joanne is co-manager at Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Doreen, who is married to Tom Govenlock, lives in Whitecourt. Tom is employed at Amco Gas, and they have one son T.J.

Sharon is married to Rick Misyk and they live in Camrose. Rick is a drywaller and they have one son, Sheldon.

Howard is employed at Hughenden, and lives in Camrose.

John passed away in 1981, and Alice now resides in Camrose.

Ronsko, John and Katherine

John and Katherine Ronsko moved to Alberta from Poland at a young age. They settled and farmed at Altario, Alberta. To them ten children were born. They then moved to the Holden district, settling on the Oscar Koetke farm, where they farmed for a few years and the children attended Sandstorm school. Another move took the family to the Daysland area in the Bateman school district. John Ronsko passed away in 1937.

Their eldest son, Joe, married Stella Hamula and they farmed north of Daysland. He passed away in 1970.

Nellie married Tom Wolokoff. They reside in Daysland.

Stella, married to Eugene Dzuba, lived in Millet. She passed away in 1965.

Frank and his wife Annie (Gara) farmed near Daysland. He passed away in 1973.

Ed. married Frances Zak and they reside in Camrose.

Helen is married to Mike Hoynick, they also live in Camrose.

Mary is married to Pete Kasha and they live in Calgary.

Annie is married to Frank Formenak. Their home is in Saskatchewan.

Kay married Ed. Montgomery and they lived in Daysland. She passed away in 1977.

John, married to Alice Cromik, passed away in 1981.

Mrs. Katherine (Ronsko) Delaney resides at Bethany Home in Camrose.

Rosseth, John

submitted by Erna Christianson

John Rosseth came to Canada in 1902 from Revillo, South Dakota. He homesteaded on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ 6-50-15 north of Holden, which was then called the Martins district.

DOMINION LANDS.
INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 955

Agency, 190.

I Certify that I have received from John Rosseth
Revillo, S. Dakota.

the sum of 80 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for 80
Quarter of Section 6 Township 50 Range 18
West of the 7th Meridian, and that the said John Rosseth
is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in a
cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE - All mining claims existing on the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

NOTE - This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Amorquay
Senior Assistant

John Rosseth's homestead receipt. — 1902.

John got his Canadian Certificate of Naturalization in 1906.

He mostly grain farmed during the last few years, and walked to his neighbors to get fresh milk and eggs.

He sold his farm in 1944.

Rude Brothers

Alvin Rude and his wife Margaret along with his brother Claus settled on the S½-1-48-16 south of Holden.

This land was fenced with all cedar posts and the C.P.R. had also built the house and barn which made it a rather expensive farm at the time. They also had the NW-5-48-15, and an early tractor.

Alvin and Margaret left the farm after World War I for California, and Claus became a commercial traveller for the Hudson Bay Company. In 1921 he married Della Olson and they had one son George who resides in Riverside, California.

In 1932 Claus and his family left Alberta for Corona, California where they ran a thriving grocery business for many years, later going into business in Riverside. They both passed away in the 1970's.

Rurka, Harry Family

Harry Rurka was born in 1904. He married Mary, daughter of Metro and Lena Ogradnick, in 1927. They farmed six miles north of Holden. (This land is presently being farmed by the Michliches). They had seven children: Edward, Paul, Martha, George, Victoria, Leo and Marilyn. Mary passed away in 1941, and Harry in 1962.

Edward and his wife, Violet (Seaton), reside in Provost. Their children are: Richard, Myrna, Garry and Brenda, and four grandchildren.

Paul and his wife, Eileen (Tymchak), reside in

Edmonton. Their children are: Darren, Carla and Dawn.

Martha and her husband, Jake Sawatsky and their children Keith and Kim reside in Calgary.

George lives in Vancouver.

Leo and his wife, Carol (Olson), and children Dean and Shannon farm north of Tofield.

Victoria and her husband, Lloyd Pooke, and their children Dennis, Della and Gregory reside in Edmonton.

Marilyn and her husband, Oleh Shykora, reside in Holden.

Rurka, Harry and Eva

by Nancy and Minnie Wicentowich

Harry Rurka emigrated to Canada from the village of Radowance, district of Sokol in Halychyna, Ukraine, in 1900, at the age of 18. He arrived with his parents, John and Pearl Rurka and five other children; Steve, Peter, Anne(Bartman) and the twins, Mary (Polutranko) and Bill. They first settled in a log and mud plastered house in the district then called Strathcona, east of Edmonton, later moving to Beaver Lake district. Due to hard times and lack of money, Harry began working on the C.P.R.

Eva Tchir came to Canada in 1906 at the age of sixteen, along with her two brothers, John and Louis. An orphan at the age of ten, Eva was happy to be free from the mistreatment of her stepmother. With no place to go, the three stayed with their aunt, Mrs. Roman Zuzak, in the Kopernick district. Harry and Eva lived in the same village, but they didn't meet until a family gathering brought them together. They were married at Mundare in 1907.



Harry and Mary Rurka.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rurka, 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Following their marriage, the couple stayed with Harry's parents for twelve years, during which Harry was often away working. Here, were born their first four children; Mike, Steve, Anne and John. Mike and Steve attended Myroslaw School for a few years. Although their three-room house was crowded, Harry and Eva and his parents would find the kindness to provide meals and lodging for travellers. Later, Harry purchased a quarter section of land in the Ideal district. The boys helped clear trees and stones so that a two-storey house could be built. Harry purchased more land but surrendered it to hail and crop failures. Years later, he was able to buy another quarter section of land which he kept until retirement. It was here that the rest of the children, Nick, Dan, Minnie, and Olga were born.

The family lived from the avails of the land, as their food supply came from plentiful gardens, the chickens and the cows. Harry was honored for his twenty years of service as treasurer of the church. He also helped build the church and the hall. Eva was a member of the ladies' league in the church community. Harry, Eva, and Dan stayed on the farm until 1958 when they retired to Vegreville. While Harry remained quite active, Eva chose to stay close to home where she continued to raise a garden. Harry passed away in 1967 following a brief illness, at the age of 81. Eva spent one year at a nursing home in Vegreville, where she passed away in 1969 at the age of 82.

The eldest son, Mike married Nancy Romaniuk, daughter of Harry and Maria Romaniuk. They lived with the Rurka family for nearly three years, then they moved to their own farm. They farmed for five years. Then they bought a store in Inland, which they

kept for six years. Following this period, they moved to Edmonton where they were engaged in several businesses. Mike passed away in 1977 at the age of 68. Mike and Nancy had five children; Nita (Komarnisky), Verna (Kozak), Leo (deceased), Eugene, and Ernie.

Steve married Emily Kuzyk, daughter of John and Pauline Kuzyk, in 1941. They lived with Steve's parents for four years. Steve being a carpenter worked at his trade in Inland and then in Vegreville. Then they moved to Edmonton where Steve worked with Muttart Lumber and as a custodian for the University Hospital. He was a choir director at Borschiw Church and then at Beverly Church in Edmonton. Steve passed away in 1982 at the age of 72. Steve and Emily had five children, Elliot (deceased), Elvin, Adelle, Dale and Lee Ann.

Anne married Bill Derdak in 1931 and they farmed near Holden for thirty years. They had two children, Ralph and Eleanor (McIvor). Anne passed away in 1961.

John married Mary, daughter of Mike and Katherine Powley, in 1936. They farmed in the Ideal district for eleven years, then they moved to Vegreville where John was employed as a mechanic. They then moved to Edmonton where John was employed until he retired in 1978. John and Mary have one son, Dave.

Nick married Sophie, daughter of James and Mary Goshko, in 1936. They farmed near Inland for fifteen years, later moved to Vegreville where Nick was employed. He retired in 1982. Nick and Sophie have two sons, Leslie and Marvin.

Minnie married Peter, son of Joseph and Annie Wicentowich, in 1941. They farmed near Mundare for ten years and then moved to Edmonton, both working at various places, until going into business for themselves, which they operated for twenty-three years. Now retired, Minnie and Peter have three sons, Ernie, Ronald, and Joseph.

Olga married Bill, son of Metro and Sara Wynyuk, in 1947. They farmed near Daysland for seven years after which Bill accepted a job as a section foreman on the C.N.R. Olga was a practical nurse and worked in the hospital for several years. She obtained her St. John Ambulance certificate and is now a volunteer attendant for the Daysland Ambulance service. Olga and Bill have three children, Dianne, (Cooper), Lillian (Paseole) and Anita (Ziesel).

Dan married Olga Muzechka in 1972. They lived in Vegreville but Dan continued to run his father's farm, as well as working in various places in Vegreville. He was involved with church and choir groups. Dan passed away in 1973.



Harry Rurka family. Front Row: Olga, Mr. and Mrs. Rurka. Back Row: Minnie, Anne, Mike, Nick, Steve and Dan.

Rurka, John and family

by Denise Kinney

Our father, John Rurka, better known as "J.P.", was born in 1923, one of five children of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rurka. He was raised in the Inland district and obtained his schooling at Ideal school.

In 1944 his family made a move to a new farm purchased from George Albrecht, and as a result, our father learned the true meaning of work at a very young age. It agreed with him well, being young and strong, and to this day he still professes and maintains the old cliché, "Hard work has never killed anyone".

To assist their family during the difficult times, he and his older brother Alex, worked away from home. Our father being a "Jack of All Trades" and master of many, worked at various jobs, some of which included work at lumber camps, Swift's Packing Plant, elevator repair crews and custom plowing (breaking new land).

A few years later more land was purchased by the family, which originally had belonged to John Henry Giebelhaus. This land later became the home of our family.

In 1950 our father married Janey, one of six children born to Matthew and Anne Sturek of the Polska area. She was raised in that area and attended Reward school.

On the John Henry Giebelhaus quarter, our parents built their home and started their family of five daughters. Farming was not easy nor greatly profitable due to crop failures, hail and drought, therefore many of the grain farmers including themselves took to raising animals and poultry to supplement their incomes.

In 1968 they were able to purchase another two quarters of land which belonged to the Pipke family. In addition to being excellent farm land, it was a very picturesque property and was very often referred to by our father as "My Peaceful Haven".

In the 70's, our father worked away during the winter months for a construction company in Inuvik, N.W.T., building oil well pads. He did this not only for extra income but for his own sense of accomplishment and enjoyment.

Their daughters completed their schooling at Holden school and have now all left the nest. Judy, the eldest, is a school teacher and married Douglas Olsen of Holden. Judy and Doug have made their home in Slave Lake, Alberta, where Doug is successfully self-employed as a heavy duty mechanic. They have two sons, Christopher Douglas and Timothy Charles. Christopher's birth marked two very special events for our parents in that he was their first grandchild and first boy, coincidentally born on Fa-

ther's Day in 1976. This of course was a further delight to Grampa who had always been kidded about his five daughters.

Sandra has been with A.G.T. for eleven years, working her way up through various departments, now currently a Rural Assignor with the Vegreville Regional Office. She married D'arcy Hayes, also employed with A.G.T. as a cable splicer and they have made their home in Vegreville.

Denise has been in the insurance business as a broker for nine years and is presently with the firm of Thibaudeau Agencies Ltd. She married Kevin Kinney of Edmonton, a firefighter with the City of Edmonton Fire Department. They have one daughter, Leah Rae who was also coincidentally born on Mother's Day, 1980.

The youngest daughters, Leanne and Sheila reside in Edmonton. Leanne is near completion of her secondary schooling at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in the field of X-ray Technology.

Sheila is employed with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, K. Division in Edmonton in the compensation department as a payroll clerk.

Our parents are still farming their original land and thanks to the good Lord are healthy and happy.

Rurka, Peter and Myrtle

by Mary Ogrodnick

Like thousands of people who left Europe, the Rurka family packed their meagre belongings and left for the new promised land, Canada. In this land lay opportunity and they asked for nothing more.

Dad was born in 1898 in the village of Radowanchi, County of Sokol, Western Ukraine, and immigrated to Canada in 1900. His parents John and Pearl, three brothers, Steve, Harry, Bill, two sisters, Anne Bartman and Mary Poltranko homesteaded in Borschiw-Haight district.

In 1920 Dad married Myrtle Faryna, born in 1902, daughter of Dmetro and Mary Faryna who were settled in the Kopernick district. After a marriage it was not unusual for a young couple to live with the husband's parents; this they did for four years. Dad then purchased land near Inland, NE 9-51-W4, and with Mother's help built a log house, and did the best they could under the usual difficult circumstances of pioneers. Dad's ingenuity helped him in many facets of his life. He was a self-educated carpenter, mechanic, blacksmith and welder. When he saw a need for a fresh deep well, he built a drilling machine, and together with his brother-in-law Prokop Faryna they drilled wells for many farmers. If they struck rock they used dynamite to blast it. This speeded up the drilling operation. He used his skills



Peter and Myrtle Rurka.

to build other useful items, like a sawmill, power woodsplitter, honey extractor, just to name a few. Dad has his own little blacksmith shop, and if he did a disappearing act, you could always find him there, firing up his old homemade forge and working on his latest project.

Determination was not always rewarding. I remember the golden wheatfields that were ready to harvest only to be threshed and mangled to the ground by a vicious hailstorm. This brought tears and sadness, but with trust in God they weathered all the drawbacks and were eager to try again the next year.

Our parents didn't limit their responsibilities to just the family, but were active members of the Borschiw Church parish. They sang in the choir, Dad led bass, and Mother sang soprano. Concerts were held to help raise money to build the church hall. Basket socials were also held; these functions brought much excitement to the community as each lady tried her utmost to have the best decorated basket. These were gala affairs and were very lucrative.

Mother was parish cook for many years, and she also cooked for many weddings. This she enjoyed as she met many fine people who are still her friends today. Dad was an ardent fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, and we feel sad that he didn't live to see hockey on TV.

Eventually, there was need for more land, so in 1943 Dad purchased the George Albrecht farm, N½

26-50-15-W4, in the Adams district. By this time people were more prosperous.

Our parents were blessed with two sons, Alex, who married Natalie Pidoborozny, and John who married Janey Sturek, three daughters, Mary Ogrodnick, Pearl Shihinski, and Sylvia Malinski. They have twenty grandchildren, and fourteen great grandchildren. Mother now lives in Vegreville and we are pleased to have her with us. Dad died in 1957 at the age of 59. He is buried in Borschiw cemetery.

We wish to pay tribute to our parents for their love and hard work in providing us with a happy and contented home.

Rurka, Steve and Anne Family

Steve and Anne immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in 1901. They lived in Edmonton where Steve worked on the construction of the High Level Bridge until 1902, when they acquired a homestead northwest of Holden. To their union were born fourteen children, three of whom died in childhood; the remainder grew up in the Holden area and attended Holmdene school. These include Harry, Pasnie (Lucas), Bill, John, Joe, Katie (Derdak), Mary (Zenko), Mike, Peter, Nancy (Belibo) and Minnie Ensign.

Ruskenveld, Maurice and Edna

In 1943 Maurice married Edna, daughter of Bernard and Anna Nelson of Holden. In this union they had three sons and one daughter, Gerald, Robert, Jacqueline and Craig.

During the years in Holden, Maurice was the International Harvester Agent and Texaco gas and oil agent for some twenty-five years. In the thirty years



Gerald, Robert, Jacqueline and Craig. Sitting: Maurice and Edna Ruskenveld.

spent in Holden there was a lot of land bought and sold. A farm was bought and farmed at Fabyan for a number of years before reselling. More farms were bought around Westlock and Vega. Maurice always wanted land by water. The Pembina almost surrounds the Westlock land, and the Athabasca, the Vega property.

When modern machinery came in, Maurice was all for modernizing the farm. His father was not in agreement, his comment was, "We're going to go broke!"

Maurice bought machinery on time and rented more land. The crops were good and the price of grain went up.

Since his was the first combine in the district a lot of farmers came to see how much grain it left in the field. He did well with farming but not without a lot of hard work and long hours. As the machinery got larger it was harder to move from one farm to another, so in 1968 the farms around Holden were sold and the family moved to Westlock. They continued to farm until 1974 when healthwise Maurice had to slow down. Presently they are living in the town of Westlock. Gerald, Linda and their children, Justine and Grant, are living on the farm near Westlock and continuing to farm. Robert at present is living in town. Helen and their girls Sherrie, Bobbie Jo and Elaine are living in Westlock. Jacqueline and husband Bob Olsen and family Paul and Scott live in St. Albert. Craig and Bridget with their family Nichole and Jacqueline, are living in Smoky Lake.

At last count there were nine grandchildren.

Saboe, Anton

by Grace (Hansen) Eriksson

My mother married Anton Saboe. They lived in Holden for a short time prior to moving to a farm at Bruce.

While still in Holden, I remember an exciting evening. Dad Saboe and Uncle Oscar Burnstad were getting dressed for a masquerade. Uncle Oscar was the woman. He'd borrowed clothes from Mrs. Adam Dorin. What a time he had with the corset! No one knew who they were. Uncle Oscar had a ball!

To Hedvig and Anton were born two children; Norman and Doris. They went to school in Bruce and Iron Creek. The folks moved back to Holden about 1943. Dad Saboe worked for the school board. During their time in Holden, they lived in the Evan Olsen home. Mother and Dad both passed away in 1963 in Edmonton where they had lived since about 1950.

Norman Saboe, on reaching military age, joined the Royal Canadian Engineers during W.W.II. He married Margaret (Mickey) Andrews from Wal-

lingford, England, and to them was born one child, Sandra.

Mickey and Sandra came to Canada in 1946, Norman preceding them. They moved to Camrose and later to Grande Prairie where they have resided for about 20 years. Sandra married Eugene Fedako and they live in Edmonton.

Doris took up egg grading and has worked in that field ever since.

Doris and Stanely Evanchu were married in 1946. They moved to Edmonton in 1947 where they still reside. Stanley works as a machinist for the C.N.R.

To Doris and Stanley were born four girls: Margaret, Marie, Anita and Elsie. They have three granddaughters and one grandson.

Sabroski, Tom and Linda

Tom spent most of his life at Sherwood Park, Alberta. After completing his schooling he joined the Air Force and was stationed at Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Linda and Tom Sabroski.

Linda (nee Olson) was raised at Holden. After completing her schooling she moved to Edmonton, where she was employed for seven years.

In 1974 they were married and resided in Edmonton for a year. They then purchased a home in Sherwood Park. Their first child Erin, was born in 1979 at Edmonton. In 1980 they moved to Holden and built a new home on the old Lars Peterson farm. Ryan, their second child was born at Vegreville in 1981.

Tom and Linda are now farming the land of Melvin and Irene Olson.



Erin and Ryan Sabroski.

Sanderson, Alfred by Lorraine Sanderson

Alfred Sanderson was born in Conton, South Dakota in 1890. He came to the Palmer district in 1915. Later he married Valberg Augustine and farmed north of Holden. Lorraine was born in 1923 and Valberg passed away at Lorraine's birth. She was raised by Sigurd and Olive Augustine (nee Webb). Later Alfred married Bertha Dorin. They had two



Alfred Sanderson and his first car.

children Margaret and Jimmy. Alfred passed away in 1947.

Lorraine worked in Edmonton and married in 1949 and raised three children, Harold, Donna and Gail Borwick.



Gunda Forre, Volberg Augustine, Kristina Nohr in 1917.

Sandvick, Hans by Selma Bratrud

Hans Sandvick was born in Norway. At an early age he stowed away on a ship for the United States. Very little is known about his early life. He married a Norwegian girl and they had two children, Henry and Anna. He came to Canada and filed on homestead SE 12-48-17 and Henry filed on NE 12-48-17. Hans was a cattle man and raised Black Angus cattle. There was always a lot of hay to put up in the summer. They built a log house when they first came; some years later they improved their homestead by building a big house.



Front Row. Seated: Mrs. John Reum, Mrs. Stensrud, Mr. and Mrs. Sandvick.

Hans and a neighbor, Augustine dug a well 30 ft. deep and about 8 ft. across which they curbed with stone. It has watered a lot of cattle and is still there after about 75 years.

Mrs. Sandvick was a faithful member of the ladies' aid. In those days when the aid met there was always a big dinner served. Annie attended Palmer School for a short time. She was confirmed in 1903.

Hans Sandvick rented his land and moved to Camrose in 1924. Mrs. Sandvick passed away in 1929, and Hans in the fall of 1934.

Henry married Beula Snare a Palmer teacher. They had three daughters, Jean, Helen and Wilhilma. Jean was killed in a car accident a few years ago. Helen lives at Kelowna, B.C. Wilhilma lives at Victoria.

Saranchuk, Michael and Myrtle by Myrtle (Laskosky) Saranchuk

I was born to George and Pearl Laskosky in 1921, the second youngest of nine children. I attended Vermillion Valley School, and after graduating, helped out at home on the farm. In 1940, I married Michael Saranchuk, a school teacher at Scona School. He taught school for the Holden School board for two more years, and then joined the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, and served until the second world war ended. While stationed in Grand Prairie, Alberta, our first son David was born in 1945. Then we returned to Holden and Michael taught school for one more year. We then moved to Vancouver, B.C. and found employment with the T. Eaton Co. Our second son Douglas was born in 1949 and our youngest son Gregory in 1953. All three sons are now married and live in British Columbia.

David married Sharyn Lyon and they have a daughter Melanie and a son David. Douglas married Lillian Lozinsky and they have two sons Christopher and Nickalue. Gregory married Sharon Vonniessen in 1980.

Michael is now retired and I am semi-retired and we are enjoying life.

Sawchuk, Mike Family

Mike Sawchuk immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in 1928. He first worked on a farm at Waskatenau, Alberta. In 1943 he married Marion Komarnisky from Holden. They later ventured to Leduc where they operated a coffee shop in the old Leduc Hotel. In 1948, after fire destroyed the hotel, they moved to Holden. It was here they owned and operated Sawchuk's General Store, situated between the Town Office and Ann's Lunch. Sometime later a dwelling was added to the back of the store where the family lived for a few years. Later they purchased a

house at 4903-50 Avenue. In January of 1964 fire in the store forced Mike and Marion to close their business. Mike then went to work for the CN — where he was employed at Jasper Park Lodge in summer and at the Macdonald Hotel during the winter months. They moved to Edmonton in 1966 where they presently reside.

Mike and Marion have three children: Sandra and her husband Dennis Hoffman are presently living in Viking. Sandra is employed at the Co-op where she does books. Dennis is employed by a Calgary based oil company as a mechanic. They have two boys — Michael and Joseph. Orest is living in Edmonton where he has been employed with Northwestern Utilities for a number of years as a gas utility man. Ron recently got married and is living in Mill Woods. He is a fireman and is stationed at Bonnie Doon #9 Fire Hall. His wife Loretta is a legal secretary.

Schauer, Adolph Family

Adolph Schauer was born in Odessa, Russia in 1893. He came to America in 1909, arriving in Denver, Colorado, where he worked in a sugar beet factory. He came to Alberta in 1912, and worked on a farm at Lavoy.

He moved to Round Hill in 1913 where he farmed. He met and married Alvina Schmautz in 1919. Alvina was born in Odessa, Russia in 1900, and arrived in Round Hill in 1909.

Although they were born at the same place and came to America the same year, they didn't meet until 1913.

They moved to the Holden district in 1923 and farmed northeast of town. They retired from farming in 1956, and moved to Viking, where they both resided until their passing, Alvina in 1959, and Adolph in 1972.

Adolph and Alvina had four children:

Mary, born in 1920, at Round Hill, married Steve Nelson. They farmed near Holden, and later at Viking. Mary passed away in 1969. They had three children, Alvina, Shirley, and Clair.

Albert, born in 1921, at Round Hill, served overseas with the Royal Canadian Medium Artillery. He was wounded in action and came home. He lived and worked around Holden until 1954, and is a journeyman carpenter. He lived in Calgary for several years doing construction work, moved to Edmonton in 1970, and is still living there. He is a superintendent for P.C.L. construction. He married Myrtle McLeod in 1971. They have two boys Randy and Rick.

Clara was born in 1924, at Holden. She helped on the farm, then married John Pfanzler. They have one daughter, Doris, who with her husband and children, live at Medicine Hat.

Bill born in 1925 at Holden, presently lives at Ardrossan. He has worked at various places, but always with animals, mostly horses.

Scherger, Ann Family

I came to Canada from Czechoslovakia just before W.W.II started. My folks farmed in the Heath district (east of Wainwright). For many years I attended Plaxtonville School. In 1946 my father bought a farm north of Edgerton and in 1952 I ventured out and got a job clerking in Armstrong's Store in Wainwright.

I met Bill Scherger and we were married in 1953. In the spring of 1954 we moved to Holden where Bill had a job with Maurice Ruskenveld as a car mechanic.



Back Row: Lynda, Brad, Bev, Stan. Front Row: Pamela, Ionne, Yvonne and Denise Scherger.

Shortly after we moved here the first joy came into our lives; her name became Beverly. A year and a half later Lynda came along, followed by Denise. A couple of years later along came our boys, Bradley and Stanly. They were followed by three girls, Yvonne, Ionne and Pamela.

In 1977 we got another addition to our family, Russell, when Bev. got married. They are living at Cooking Lake. Lynda, Denise and Brad are living in Edmonton. Yvonne and Stanly are in Medicine Hat. Ionne and Pamela are still at home with their Mom.

Schultz, Elmer Robert and Lois by Lois Schultz

Elmer Schultz was born in Vegreville to a well known family, Robert Schultz and Katie (Albrecht) in 1937. In the Willingdon district, a girl, Lois Margaret, was born to Joseph Wilfred Bolan and Leona Eudora (Jewell) in July of the same year. In 1957 Elmer and Lois were married and farmed in the



Four Generations — Schultz Family. Standing: Robert and son Elmer. Seated: Great Grandpa, David Sr. and great grandson David Jr., taken in March 1972 at Great Grandpa's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

northeast Holden district (Adams), where the family still maintains the lands purchased over the years.

Elmer enjoyed farming along with being involved in many farm organizations, community and church affairs. Elmer, Lois, and family raised turkeys, sold turkey hatching eggs, raised sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and even bees for awhile. They have since specialized in raising hogs and chickens besides grain.

They were blessed with four children. Joan Patricia born in 1958, married Kervin Raugust in 1979. They are in the ministry of the Evangelical Church of Canada. David Elmer was born in 1960 and is attending Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat. Barbara Ruth, born in 1961 married Kevin Volkman in 1980. They have a dairy farm at New Sarepta. Bryan Timothy was born in 1963. He intends to farm the family farms with his brother, David, at SE 27-50-15-W4. The boys were very active in hockey and other sports, and still are.

Elmer was privileged to serve in the land of Haiti, West Indies, several times for a few weeks helping to



Spring 1978 — Elmer Schultz taking some passengers for a ride in his Cessna 180. To the right — he is waiting for his spray load — ready for crop spraying.

build a clinic, a church, and a road in different years. His last trip in 1978, was mostly pleasure. He and Peter Traudt drove a school bus to Miami then boarded a plane for Port au Prince, Haiti. Elmer had learned to love the people there and wanted to show the country to his friend and to visit those he knew from former trips.

Elmer became a pilot in 1969 and was involved in aerial crop-spraying. He was accidentally killed in 1978, while crop-spraying not far from Holden. He loved flying and helping his neighbors and friends.

The family still farms in the same place.

Schultz, Robert (1913-1979) as told to Lois Schultz

Robert Schultz moved to the Adams District in 1936 and married Katie Albrecht the same year. They farmed in the area moving around from place to place till they settled on NE 22-50-15-W4. Born to this union were: Elmer Robert in 1937, Joyce Gladys in 1940 and Carol Diane in 1945.

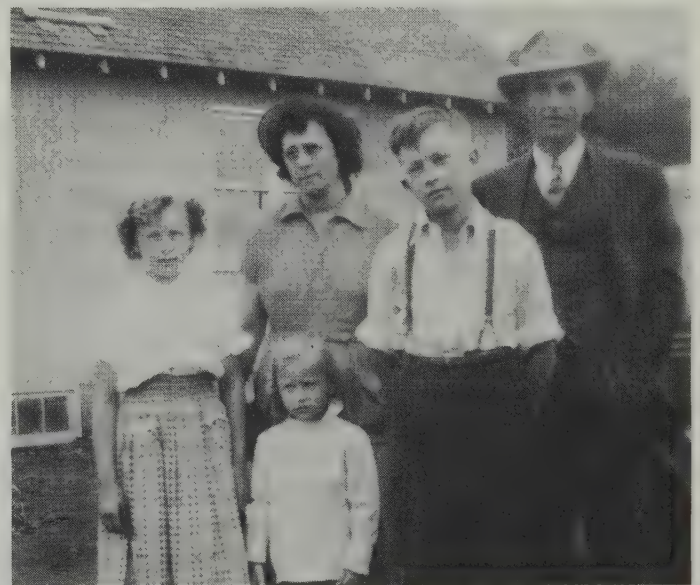


Robert and Katie Schultz planting potatoes with horses and plow; taken in the 1940's.

In the early years Robert and Katie farmed with horses, milked cows, and raised chickens and pigs. They loved and enjoyed their family farm and also raised Hereford cattle, turkeys and grain. Around the time their family was growing up, Robert and Otto Brigge and later Andy Wyllie, owned and operated a threshing machine doing custom work.

Elmer married Lois Bolan in 1957. (See Elmer Schultz story). Joyce married Arthur Schlender in 1964. This family was blessed with four children: Duana Lee, Kimberly, Lyndon and Graham. They make their home in Edmonton, and are in the housing construction business. Carol married Edward Zacharuk in 1966. They have two girls, Jeannette and Nicole. They are in the restaurant business in Kelowna, B.C.

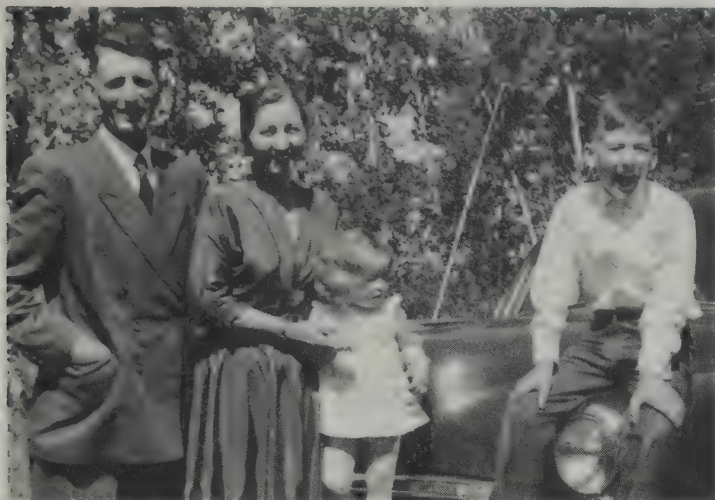
Robert was accidentally killed in 1979, and Katie lives in her own home in Edmonton.



Joyce, Carol, Katie, Elmer and Robert Schultz; taken in the early 50's at home.

Schwanke, Paul and Martha

Paul and Martha Schwanke and their two children, Dorothea and Bernd arrived in the Holden area in the spring of 1955. This was to be the last in a series of moves which took them from their home in Germany in 1951 to Lloydminster, then to Vancouver, back to Lloydminster and finally to Holden.



Paul, Martha, Barbara and Bernd Schwanke.

In 1955, the Schwankes purchased the land and buildings of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ -22-47-16 from the Gabrielsons of Camrose. The family settled in April of 1955 and Barbara was born in August of the same year. The house, built around 1916, had stood empty for six years while other farmers in the area worked the land. The family started out with one cow, a steer, a calf and a few chickens, and over the years developed a mixed farm which included a dairy herd, a hog operation and a variety of cereal crops.

During the first few years, the nearest school bus stop was one mile away so every morning the children walked up the road to Kratko's farm to catch the bus. One year, the spring thaw left the road to the farm flooded and totally inaccessible by vehicle or by foot, so for the duration of the flood, Bernd and Dorothea "floated" to the main road via horses and stoneboat. A few years later, the road was upgraded, eliminating such adventures.

Both Bernd and Dorothea graduated from Holden School and Barbara attended until 1968 when the family moved to Edmonton. The farm was sold in July of that year.

Paul and Martha Schwanke lived in Edmonton until the spring of 1978, when they decided to retire in Victoria, B.C. Retirement has been an enjoyable time for them. There is little time for loneliness between the visits of family and friends!

Dorothea, Bernd and Barbara and their families all live in Edmonton. All graduated from the University of Alberta after completing high school. Dor-



Dorothea, Barbara and Bernd Schwanke.

othea taught school in Tofield and Edmonton. She and her husband, George Campsall, also a teacher, have two children, Ian and Deneen.

Bernd taught in Medicine Hat and Victoria, B.C. before retiring from the teaching profession. He is now working as a medical photographer in the U of A Hospital's Ophthalmology Dept. and freelancing in other areas of photography.

Barbara is working with Alberta Energy and Natural Resources as an aerial photograph interpreter. Her husband, Grant Keir, is employed with a development corporation in Edmonton.

Scott, Irvin

Irvin, son of Melford and Blanche Scott was born at Piapot, Saskatchewan in 1934, and moved with his family to Bluffton, Alberta. He attended school at Piapot and Bluffton, and at the age of seventeen he began working for the C.P.R., and later became foreman of a telephone crew.

In 1955 he married Lois Graham of Lacombe. Their son Garth was born in 1956, and they were divorced two years later.

While he worked at various construction jobs, Garth stayed with Irvin's parents. In 1970 Irvin, Garth and Mrs. Scott moved their mobile home to Holden. Garth attended school here while Irvin worked for Shatto Construction at Vermilion.



Scott family. Back Row: Garth and Irvin. Middle: Margo and Shirley. Front Row: Mandi and Tanya Scott.

Irvin met and married Shirley, daughter of Gwen and Cecil Hooper of Holden in 1971. During 1972-73 Irvin worked at several places in Alberta and moved their mobile home to Sparwood and Elkford, B.C. where they intended to live for awhile, but they didn't like it there so moved back to Holden. Irvin continued to work on construction in various places in Alberta until 1976 when he was employed by the Village of Holden as foreman.



Tanya Scott in 1981.

In 1977 Irvin's and Shirley's daughter, Tanya Leah arrived and she enjoyed the camping and traveling which the Scotts often did.

In 1975 Garth married Margo Yuremchuk of Peace River. Their daughter Mandi Dawn was born in 1976. Garth worked as a surveyor then for U.G.G. at Spirit River and the Alberta Wheat Pool at Gerouxville. In 1981 he moved his family to Holden, and he works on oil rigs.

Seccombe, John Family

The Seccombe family came to the Holden area from England and settled in the Talbot District in 1927 on NW 6-49-16-W4. The family included Mr. and Mrs. John Seccombe, Dorothy, Muriel, Roy, Joan, and John. Baden was born at Holden. They came to find a better way of life.

My name is Roy Seccombe and I am writing this as I remember it as a boy. I recall the real muddy roads and the mosquitoes, also the howling of the



Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Seccombe. Roy and Joan sitting on the step.

coyotes, which we had never heard before. The trees came up almost to our kitchen door. One day shortly after we arrived, Mother decided to go for a short walk into the bush, she came back all excited saying there was a monkey up the tree. Dad grabbed the axe and went to investigate. This was our first encounter with a porcupine. Another time my brother John and I tried to catch a skunk thinking it was a cat, by putting my jacket over the skunk! We were banned from the house for awhile, but we all learned from our experiences.

There was heavy bush and trees on our farm and

Dad used to cut bush all winter with an axe, to get a few acres cleared. Then the hail and frost would wipe out what little crop we had. I know it was very discouraging to Mom and Dad. Things were not easy for our family during the Dirty Thirties but we managed like everybody else.

Times were getting better when the second world war broke out. My brother John and I joined the Canadian Army, also my sister Joan enlisted. Mother passed away in 1941. Dad finally left the farm and went to work in the ship yard in Vancouver. When the war was over I settled on a dairy farm south of Edmonton and got married in 1947. We have no children. I am now retired and living in the city of Edmonton, but Holden is still my old home town.

Selkirk, M. Loyed and M. Claire **by Jean Selkirk Duff**

In 1933 our family moved to Holden when my mother, M. Claire Selkirk was hired by the Holden School District. With her employment the number of teachers was increased to four and she was the first person on the staff to hold a university degree. Hers was a Bachelor of Arts (Honors English and History) from Queen's University. Other teachers on the staff were Arkle Richardson as principal, Isabel Briggs, and Ronola McPherson.

My father, M. Loyed Selkirk, became secretary-treasurer of the Town of Holden, the Drainage District and the Holden School District. He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1940, where he served as an officer until 1944. He had been an officer during World War I, serving with the Fort Garry Horse and later with the R.A.F.

The major activity in the school year was the musical festival which took place each May. When Miss Thrasher came to teach in Holden, the school won the trophy for the most points on several occasions at the Vegreville Festival. Choral groups also competed in the Provincial Festival in Edmonton.

When I remember Holden it is with great sadness. Most of the boys with whom I attended school enlisted in the armed forces. Many of them were killed. Several families suffered the death of more than one son and those young people who were left around town endured major health problems or were just too young to enlist. Many who returned from war went on to further education.

When I completed school in Holden, I attended University of Alberta, and graduated in Home Economics. While in Holden we built the house now occupied by Nick Bilyk at 4923-49 St.

At the end of World War II my parents moved to Toronto where my father worked for the Federal Government until he retired. He died in 1972. My

mother is 91 years old and lives in Toronto. She has served on Toronto, Canadian and International executives of many organizations.

Since leaving Holden I have taught high school in Toronto for many years, specializing in the education of the mentally retarded. My husband and I have two sons, Tom making computer movies, and Bob teaching at Port Elgin, Ont. Editor's note: Mrs. Selkirk passed away in 1982 since story was received.

Semchyshen, Anton and Annie

Anton was born in Canada in the Moscow area in 1904. His parents, Prokip (1865-1950) and Michalena (nee Kubin — 1872-1949) came to Canada in 1900 with two sons Dymetro (1891-1966) and Mike (1896) from the county of Borschiw in Halychyna and homesteaded in the Moscow area. More children were born to them, Anton, Annie (1906-1966) and John (1913).



Anton and Annie Semchyshen on 51st Wedding Anniversary.

Anton attended Moscow school until grade four, then his help was required on the farm and he had to leave school.

In 1926, Anton purchased a quarter of land for \$5,000, with a \$200 down payment. The land, being all bush, had to be cleared, so with a Rumley tractor and plow which his father gave him, Anton managed to clear ten acres in three years. He then proceeded to build a two room log and clay home. Anton purchased an Erskine car in which he went courting to impress his bride-to-be, but just before the wedding he sold it and purchased a Hart Parr tractor, and had to borrow his uncle Anton Kubin's car for the wedding.

In 1929, Anton married Annie Powley at St. Peter and Paul's Church in Mundare. Annie's parents were Anton and Sophie Powley from the province of Halychyna, Ukraine. They came to Canada in 1901.

Annie also went to Moscow school but had to leave at grade eight in order to help her family on the farm. She recalls when the grain was about 8 inches tall, she and the other children would go out in the field and pull weeds.

After their marriage, Anton and Annie moved to their new home that Anton had built, and brought with them Annie's dowry, consisting of four head of cattle, two pigs, and twelve chickens. They worked together clearing more land, and as time went on, Anton purchased more equipment, thereby placing a second mortgage on the farm. In order to pay off his debts, he did custom plowing and threshing and road building, while Annie looked after the farm herself. With this involvement, Anton eventually became more active in municipal affairs and became a councillor in the County of Beaver, where he served for 14 years. He also served on the Municipal Hospital Board and on the Togo School Board.



Back Row: Bob, Archie, Darlene, Michael, Deborah, Clarence, Gladys, Nick, Curtis and Edwin. Middle Row: Susan, Dorothy, Annie Semchyshen holding Dennis, Lillian and Jennifer. Front Row: Chandra, Dean and Darren.

Anton and Annie were active in their community parish of Borschiw for twenty years and helped lay the foundation for the present parish hall as well as establish the present order in the cemetery, where he now rests.

Annie also helped in parish and community affairs. She cooked meals for the men when they were building for the parish, helped in fund raising and in the cleaning of the church, hall and school. Annie also found time for handicrafts. Her interest in sewing developed to where she drafted her own patterns and sewed most of the clothes for the family. This provided many years of enjoyment for her and still keeps her busy.

In 1973, they sold their farm and retired in Edmonton. Anton passed away in 1982.

They had four children: William who died in infancy, Lillian, Dorothy, and Susan. The girls attended school in Togo.

Lillian married Nick Kobzey of Guernsey, Saskatchewan in 1950. They have two children, Gladys and Clarence. They also have three grandchildren. Lillian, Nick and their son Clarence are in the hair styling business in Tofield and Mundare.

Dorothy married Archie Ewaskiw of Mundare in 1958. They have four children, Deborah, Darrell, Darlene and Michael.

Susan married Robert Motiuk of Chipman in 1967. They have three children, Darren, Chandra, and Dean.

Semotiuk, John and Mary

John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Semotiuk and Mary the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hunka, all of Vegreville.

In 1955, John and Mary were looking for a meat market business and hearing there was one for sale in Holden, came here to look it over. A week later, he was joined by his brother Nestor and they purchased the shop and called it Holden Frozen Foods. It was purchased from Steve Komarnisky, who shortly before had bought it from Walter Dorin.



Semotiuk family, 1960. Back Row: John, Bernie, Mary. Front Row: Marvin, Debra and Jack.

John, Mary and the two boys, Bernie and Marvin, moved to Holden in June and lived in Pastuzyks' house, where Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hrabec live now. Their first impression of Holden was "no water". It had to be hauled from Ernie Good's water tank. Water and sewer lines were put in that year and the streets were a mess. They had to buy four pairs of boots, as without them you couldn't get around.

Debbie and Jack were both born in this house, and it soon became crowded, so they moved into Johnny Story's house which is now the Mel Warren residence.

In 1963, they built their own home on a lot where the old playground used to be. Debbie remembers it well as she broke her arm coming down the old slide.

Both John and Mary are active in the community. For years, John taught Cubs, was active on town council, Masons, Elks Lodge and now for something different to do he delivers the rural mail twice a week. Mary taught Brownies and Sunday school and is active in U.C.W. and Royal Purple; she also had time for curling and held offices in the club. She has been employed with the Post Office since 1961, first part time, then full time and now as Postmistress.



John Semotiuk and his sister Mary. Note the thatched roof.

The children have pleasant memories of their growing years in Holden. They took part in cubs, scouts, sea cadets, Sunday school and attended and graduated from Holden School. All four worked for their spending money by delivering Journals, working in Dad's shop and Archie's Hardware.

Bernie married Elaine Langille of Westlock. They live in Devon and have two children, Trevor and Keri-Ann. Bernie is parts manager at Reliable Engine Service Ltd. in Edmonton, and Elaine is secretary for Sellars Oilfield Service Ltd. in Devon.

Marvin married Arlene Stout of Spruce View. They live in Innisfail and have one daughter, Kyla.

Marvin works for the John Manville Co. and Arlene works at Tom-Boy.

Debbie is married to Paul Halverson of Tofield, and they live in Edmonton. Debbie works for Workmen's Compensation Board as an assessment officer and Paul works for Imperial Oil as a carpenter foreman.

Jack lives in Edmonton and is operator supervisor at the G.W.G. Co.

Semotiuk, Nestor and Nancy

Nestor and Nancy Semotiuk moved to Holden from Vegreville in 1955.

Nestor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Semotiuk of Vegreville, and Nancy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eleniak of Chipman and later of Tofield. She is the granddaughter of Wasyl Eleniak, one of the first Ukrainian Pioneers to Canada. Nestor and Nancy were married in Vegreville in 1952.

Nestor and his brother John purchased the local butcher shop from Steve Komarnisky, which was previously owned by Walter Dorin. This business still owned and operated by Nestor and John and is known as Holden Lockers and Frozen Foods.

Nestor and Nancy moved to the Walter Dorin house when they came from Vegreville. This is now owned by Florence Pooke.



Back Row: Nestor, Craig, Rodney and Gary. Seated: Nancy and Diane.

Our first son, Craig was born in 1953, in Vegreville. Our second son Gary was born in 1955.

In the spring of 1956 we moved to the Mike Manchur house. Our third son Rodney was born in 1960. The children enjoyed the big yard we had at the Manchur place. In May 1965 we built our own home, across from the school. It was so nice for the children as they were always home for dinner regardless of how cold it was.

Nestor is a member of the Holden Elks Lodge and also a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was president of the Holden Chamber of Commerce for several years. Nestor has been on the school board for the County of Beaver since 1964 and still holds that position. In 1979 he received a Service Award from the Alberta Trustees' Association in recognition of fifteen years of dedicated school board service; appreciation for contribution given to education in Alberta.

Nancy was manager of Western Alberta Produce (Egg Grading Station) here in Holden for several years until 1969 when the Marketing Board came into being and opened bigger premises in Edmonton. Nancy belongs to the Ukrainian Catholic Ladies' Organization of the Holden Parish.

All three children graduated from Holden High School and went on to university.

Craig went to McGill in Montreal where he graduated with honours receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree. He is presently employed in the field of advertising and communication for a large company in Edmonton.

Gary graduated from University of Alberta with a B.A. degree and then a B.Ed. degree. He married Diane French in 1981 and they presently reside in Trochu where he is teaching Grade six. His wife Diane is employed at the St. Mary's Hospital in Trochu.

Rodney is at present attending the University of Alberta and also working with a construction company in Edmonton.

All in all the years have been good to us. We pray that we may all have good health and other blessings. Through the years we have enjoyed living in Holden, and are proud to say Holden is our home!

Sen, Darvyn **by Linda Sen**

Darvyn was born in 1950, attended Lavoy and Holden Schools, then moved to Edmonton where he completed his education at Victoria Composite High School. He married Linda Stogrin of Edmonton in 1971, moved back to Holden in 1973 and purchased Ron Hanrahan's home, which was previously owned by T. A. Liden. Darvyn started a carpet business in Vegreville and upon receiving his journeyman's certificate from N.A.I.T., established his own business, Accurate Floorcovering, in the old Royal Bank building in Holden. He has two children: Levi, born in 1979, and Shauna, born in 1981.

Shanley, Joseph and Jessie **by Peter and Mary Komarnisky**

Joseph Shanley was born in 1893 near Chortkiw in the County of Colingini in the province of Halychyna, in the western part of Ukraine, which was under the domination of Austria.

Joseph and his brother Bill arrived in Canada in 1909 and joined their brother John in White River, Ontario. Bill went back to the old country and later lost his life in the Russian Revolution. However, Joe with his older brother moved to B.C. They worked on the railroad at Kamloops for a short time, then Joe left for Vancouver while John made his home in Lytton, B.C. Joe worked as a bell hop for one of the Vancouver hotels but when World War I broke loose, he enlisted in the army in 1914.



Joe and Jessie Shanley — 1938.

In 1916 he was wounded at the front in France. He spent a few months in a London hospital and then returned to the front in Belgium.

He came back to Canada in 1919 with some of his army friends from this district and settled in Holden. In a short time he had established a hardware store on the west side of main street. Back of the store he also had a small shoe shop. Business was not good so he moved across the street and started another shoe repair shop together with a library and a Ukrainian book store. However, a fire broke out next door in the Ledingham Hardware and his shop went up in smoke too. After this misfortune he moved next door to the

Red and White store run by M. Black. Here he started another shoe shop and harness shop. This business was very good for many years until his hands gave out due to his injury in the war. He sold the business and rented the pool hall from Stanley Komarnisky. He operated the business for a few years and then retired completely in 1955.



Twins, Mary and Vera Shanley.

In the early 1920's Joe had a colorful and lucrative side line. He was quite fluent in four different languages. He struck up a business relationship with the village lawyer named Tom White. Whenever the lawyer needed an interpreter he would hire Joe. He served an important role between lawyer and the newcomers to the district. There were legal transactions such as land sales, leases, transfers, as well as civil and criminal court cases and divorce actions.

In 1920 he married Jessie Ozubko. They had five boys and five girls:

Edward of St. Albert married Ruby Clarke.
 John of Calgary married to Tillie Trochymchuk.
 Raymond of Edmonton married to Ann Kitt.
 Ludvig of Holden to Florence Gates.
 Albin of Edmonton . . . single.
 Vera of Holden married to Max Zook.
 Mary of Holden married to Peter Komarnisky.
 Emily of Holden married to Jack Ogonoski.
 Olga of Edmonton married to Peter Nebo.
 Josie of Edmonton married to Bert Sagert.

Joe passed away in 1974 at the Edmonton Veterans' Home. He was an active member of the Holden Branch of the Canadian Legion and was a life member. He is missed by everyone in the district who knew him because of his honesty, good nature and his willingness to help anyone who asked him.

He was buried in the Holden Cemetery and members of the Royal Canadian Legion were Pall Bearers.

His wife Jessie is in Edmonton enjoying her declining years amongst her sons and daughters and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Shavchook, Dennis and Anna

Dennis, Anna and Darlene Shavchook came to Holden in 1959 from Mundare. Dennis began employment in Holden as manager of the Alberta Liquor Control Board Store. Dennis was an active member of Chamber of Commerce, Legion and the fire department. Anna was involved with Brownies and Guides and was employed in various part-time



Dennis, Anna and Darlene Shavchook.

jobs. In 1980 Anna became a member of the village council. Darlene grew up in Holden taking part in Brownies, Guides, Rangers and was active in school sports. In her final year of high school she achieved the highest marks of her class and was asked to be valedictorian at graduation. She also received three awards: from the Holden Order of the Royal Purple, Alberta Teachers' Association and Province of Alberta Scholarship. After three years at the University of Alberta, Darlene received her Bachelor of Education in 1979 at the age of twenty years. Later that year she began teaching grade 5 at St. Martin's School, Vegreville.

Shehinski, Alex

Alex was born in Malniw, Austria, in 1893 to parents William and Mary Shehinski. He had two brothers and three sisters. Life was rather difficult and the future not too promising, so Alex left his



Alex and Mary Shehinski and son John.

parents and his homeland at the age of twenty. With help of a family member he migrated to Canada via the steamship Patricia, and landed in Halifax in 1913. He travelled west to Alberta in hope of a better future. Here he was reunited with his brother Peter. Later he obtained employment at Medicine Hat with Canadian Pacific Railway. After several years of railroad-ing, farming and a shoe repair business, Alex found permanent employment with the C.N.R. at Holden.

Here he built his first home just east of main street and across from the Community Hall. He married Mary Ozubko of Holden. In 1925 Alex and Mary became proud parents of a son, John. Five years later, Mary passed away and Alex with the help of Mary's parents did his best and carried on raising his son and making a living as well. His son John attended Holden School, and later served in World War II. After his discharge from the service, he lived in Edmonton and Vancouver. John passed away in 1980 at Vancouver.

Alex married Rosie Kokura in 1941, and in 1955 he purchased the former Arnold Berg house, which is his present dwelling. In 1961 his wife Rosie passed away. In 1967 Alex married Mary Samoil and took up residence in Vegreville. In 1972 he lost his wife Mary due to a fatal accident. He moved back to Holden in 1974 and resides in his home.

Alex is one of the original pioneers of Holden and is the oldest member of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which he worked diligently to build. At the age of 89 Alex is quite active and we wish him well!

Shehinski, Fred

Fred Shehinski emigrated from the province of Prehmyslive, Malnow, Austria, at the age of 20,



Fred and Anna Shehinski, 1957.

arriving in Halifax on the vessel S. S. Bulgaria. He was accompanied by a relative, John Danilak and his family, and they travelled to Strathcona (now Edmonton) by train.

That spring, he went to work for a farmer at Stony Plain, at \$6.00 per month. Six months later he found employment with the C.P.R. on the railroad, a job he held for several years.

In 1904, he took a homestead (SE 34-47-16) and in 1907 Fred married Annie Panas, who came to Canada from Wohliw, Austria in 1903. They settled on the homestead where they lived all their lives. They were blessed with nine children, Harry, Neideka, Mary, Katie, Pearl, Angela, Paul, Emily and John. John resides on the family farm, the rest all reside in Edmonton.

The children all attended Scona School, which was built in 1910, Fred being chairman of the school



Sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Shehinski.

board at the time. Fred and Annie were members of Ascension Church at Kopernick and later at St. Mary's south of Holden until their passing.

Harry, the eldest son of Fred and Annie, was born in 1907 at Holden. After completing his schooling, he lived with his parents on the family farm. In 1938, he married Anne, the youngest daughter of John and Mary (Salwyka) Papirnik. They settled on a farm of their own, across the road from St. Mary's Church, south of Holden, where they were members. In 1965, they retired from farming and moved to Edmonton. They later sold their farm to William Umrysh. Anne worked at the New Johnson Dental Laboratories in Edmonton, retiring in 1981. They continue to reside in Edmonton.



Martin Danilak, Mary and John Shehinski.

John, the second eldest son of the Shehinski family, was born in 1915. After finishing public school, he also worked with his parents on the family farm. In 1959, he married Annie, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dowhey. Annie was born in Saskatchewan and later lived in Two Hills and Vegreville. John and Annie are members of St. Mary's Church and are still actively farming where Father homesteaded.

Pearl was born in 1919 and spent her childhood and formative years assisting her parents on the farm. After completing grade nine education, she worked as a domestic for several families in the Holden area,



Fred and Pearl Papirnik and children (1979).

earning the paltry sum of \$10 per month. In 1944, she married Fred Papirnik and they resided for a short time on the family homestead near Calmar, Alberta, then moved to Edmonton where they have resided ever since. They were blessed with three sons and three daughters; Adrian, Theresa, Daniel, Carol,



Paul and Marie Shehinski.

Timothy and Adrienne; and three grandchildren. Fred and Pearl operate a general contracting firm, Papirnik Construction Ltd.

Paul was born in 1926 and received his education in Scona, Sandstorm and Holden High School. He was a cadet with the Holden Air Cadet Squadron, and upon completion of grade eleven, joined the Canadian Army in 1944. He received his training at Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Calgary, Kingston, Ontario and Dundurn, Saskatchewan. After his discharge, he moved to Edmonton where he worked at several jobs before joining the Edmonton Post Office in 1950, where he worked his way up to a supervisory position. He retired in 1981.

In 1950, Paul married Marie Rozzoli. They have two children, Theodore and Annette, and two grandchildren.



Emelia and Walter Papirnyck.

Emelia, the youngest child of Fred and Annie, was born in 1928. She attended Scona and Holden High School and graduated from Alberta College in Edmonton as a stenographer. She worked for the Department of Lands and Mines. In 1947, she married Walter Papirnyck of Calmar and they reside in Edmonton, where Walter was a superintendent in the building trade for thirty-two years. He is now retired. They were blessed with three children, Linda, Darlene and James and four grandchildren.

Sherburne, Marshal

In 1902 Debbie and Marshal Sherburne emigrated from Iowa, U.S.A. to a homestead in the district known as Earling and later to Talbot. The first home was log with a sod roof, and I guess when it rained they had a lot of dripping. Among the people that stayed over night with my folks were the senior Brisbins, they were on their way to Holden.

In a few years another log house was built with a proper roof and siding. This was a big improvement, much larger and more comfortable. I was born in this house 1908. This house was used many years after Dad sold the farm.

Dad started to farm with oxen, he even hauled freight from Wetaskiwin to Vegreville. That took a week, and my mother would be alone on the homestead. She said that coyotes would often come close and howl.



Back Row: Debbie Sherburne, Eff Nichols, Mr. Sandstrom. Front Row: ?, Marshall Sherburne holding May, Bill Nichols holding Florence Sandstrom, Clem Willis.

I started school in the Shaw district. I rode horseback. If we had the teacher boarding with us, we would drive. Later the Talbot School opened and I went there.

My folks always had neighbors over on Sunday. They had dinner and then played cards until supper time, and often after supper they would play again. One big treat we had was home made ice cream. Mr. Sandstrom had ice and a freezer; he would bring it to our place and mother would make great ice cream.

In the days of the homesteads, people got together and drove to Appleby's and had a night of dancing and visiting. My father used to call the square dances.

When Dad sold the farm in 1919 he had a large number of purebred horses and he had even bought a tractor, which was a big step forward from oxen. After the farm was sold, my folks moved to Holden.

They bought the pool room and confectionery just north of the hotel. A few years later the pool room was sold and dad bought a sheep ranch west of Tofield. My father's health wasn't very good and he wasn't able to continue farming so we moved to Ryley and my mother opened a restaurant. We then moved back to Holden to the old confectionery building. We lived next to the telephone exchange. I spent most of my ten years in Holden and it is a time of happy memories — all the dances at Bruce School, and the barn dances at L. Ritlands, also our village hall. We had a Chautauqua every fall, which was really great entertainment. I also enjoyed the Sunday School. After I got married, my folks moved to Edmonton, and they both passed away within thirteen months of one another.

I moved to Edmonton in the thirties and got a job with the Department of National Defence, where I worked for 32 years. I bought a house while I worked, now I am very comfortable. My daughter lives in Toronto but I see her every summer and Christmas. My son lives in Leduc with his family and we spend a lot of time together. One of his sons lives with me.

Shiemen, George Henry by Bryan M. Shieman M.D.

George, born in St. Paul, Minneapolis in 1898, was a young athlete and trained for railway telegraphy. He moved to Edmonton, Alberta and there worked as a telegrapher. He was the playing coach of

the Edmonton Eskimos and in 1925 took that team to Toronto where they lost in their bid for the Grey Cup Championship.

Not only was he an outstanding football player but he played baseball in Minnesota and Edmonton, and taught and coached youngsters in a professional technique.

He was the Canadian National Railway station master in Holden, having also been station master previously in Smoky Lake and Haynes. He married Helen Elizabeth Miller and had three sons, Bryan (orthopedic surgeon, Los Altos Hills, California), Fred (director of finance company, Concord, California), Allan (owner auto transmission shop, Eureka, California).

His greatest contribution to the Holden history was his year-round devotion to young people. He initiated a hockey team (the Trail Rangers). George helped organize promotions to help finance uniforms. In the winter time it was a common sight to see all of the young high school boys arrive at the station where some piled into the car and the remainder, with their equipment, got into a trailer attached to the vehicle. This was completely boarded in with a small door on the back, straw mats on the floor and a small wood stove to keep the boys warm. The smoking chimney extruded through the top and was a unique sight as it went to Ryley, Viking or Tofield.

George made arrangements to have the Holden rink "flooded" to make appropriate ice for all of the



Edmonton Eskimos (1923?) when George Shieman (5th from right) was playing coach.



George Shieman.

school children and some adults to skate. Before a hockey game the tank truck which would flood the ice was taken to the creamery where George arranged to have a steam hose placed in the water to heat it up. The warmed water then was flooded onto the ice, filling all of the cracks and when it froze, resulting in a glass-smooth surface.

He coached a youth baseball team. Evenings and weekends were used for practice. It is interesting how one had to discourage mosquitoes. He taught the outfielders to take a "smudge pot" to their field location.

George was one of Holden's Boy Scout Leaders. I recall the great pride of having a uniform and working for him to obtain badges of merit. Other young boys will recall the presentation of a staff which was a heavy rigid rod especially made from ash.

George and Helen Shieman were lifelong members of the United Church of Holden. Both sang and acted in locally produced musical productions. George was the Grand Master in the Masonic Lodge and Helen was a member of the Eastern Star.

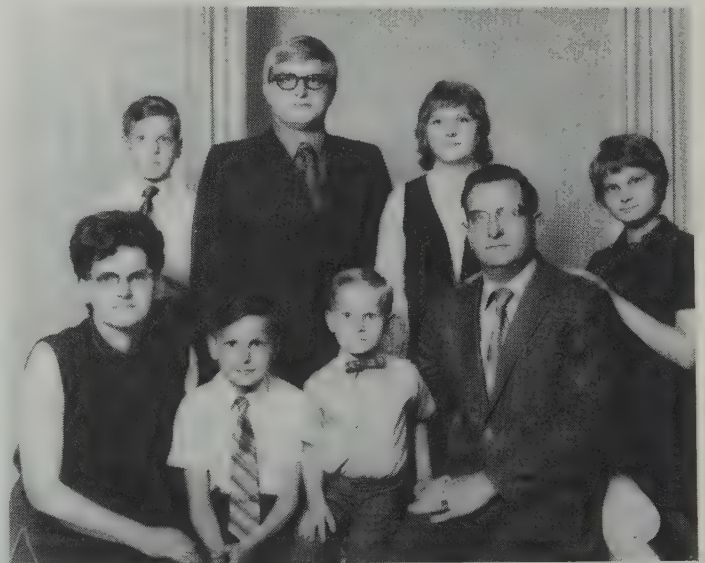
Great and endearing friendships developed in small towns, especially in "the old days". People were reliant on one another for help, advice and entertainment. A mutual admiration developed between close friends, Mr. Tom White and wife, Betty, and George and Helen Shieman. Tom, who was an attorney, Mayor of Holden and a gun collector and a steadfast independent, often played practical jokes on George Shieman. One time he put a handful of

rifle bullets in the cold ashes of the huge railway waiting room wood burning stove. When George subsequently kindled to life a new fire, the heat soon caused a series of explosions. These were associated with resounding metal reports as the slugs ricocheted around the pot bellied stove. George had a good sense of humor and guessed who was the culprit and soon retaliated. He claimed Tom's Christmas whiskey, which had to be ordered from the Provincial Liquor Board in Edmonton, 6 weeks in advance, had not arrived at the Holden station. Tom suspected foul work was afoot so a couple of nights prior to Christmas at 2 A.M., he took the Shieman Jersey cow from its barn and walked her nearly a mile to the only heated private garage in town (his own). The cow was tethered between two cars, Tom's and George's. The following morning Bryan Shieman went to milk the cow and found only tracks proceeding easterly. He was sent carrying Tom's Christmas whiskey to barter in exchange for the cow. George got the cow, Tom got his whiskey and Bryan had to clean up a messy garage.

Shihinski, Nick and Pearl

Nick was born at Quarrel, Alberta, to parents Tillie and Peter Shihinski. Quarrel was a small postal station and store seven miles north of Daysland. It was operated by the late John Brown, who brought mail and dry goods by horse and wagon from Wetaskiwin in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

Nick attended Quarrel School through grade nine and commenced his high school education in Daysland. With the Second World War into its third year and harvest in full swing, Nick went back to the farm due to the shortage of farm labour. He completed his



Shihinski Family, 1973. Standing: Neil, Gerald, Janet, Sonia. Seated: Pearl, Grant, Daniel and Nick.

high school education by correspondence, working late nights by the light of the coal oil lamps.

In 1950 he married Pearl Rurka of Vegreville, daughter of Peter and Myrtle Rurka. Nick and Pearl lived with his parents for six months. In 1951 they moved to Holden and he was employed by General Sales and Service. They took up residence in a small cottage back of the home built by A. Sanderson. In 1952 they moved into the Louie Ritland house. Nick purchased a lot in 1953, where he built a home (4808-51 Ave.), and is residing there at the present time.

In September of 1952 Nick was employed by the Holden School Division as a maintenance man. Responsible for the maintenance of approximately thirty rural and town schools, he was assisted by Jake Boetcher and later by Art Grinde. Besides maintenance of schools and teacherages, a continuous supply of wood and coal had to be delivered to the rural schools.

The closure of rural schools and bussing of pupils to the towns, necessitated more classroom space, therefore some of the rural schools were moved into town. Some of these buildings are still in use. Since the formation of the County of Beaver in 1957, Nick has been Building and Maintenance Superintendent.

Nick has taken an interest in various organizations and committees. He spent several years as Scout Master at Holden, is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada, treasurer of the Ukrainian Catholic Parish, is presently president of the Parish Council, director of School Plant Officials Society of Alberta and Mayor of Holden since 1981.

Pearl is presently a teacher's aide at the Holden School. She served as treasurer and president of the Ukrainian Catholic Ladies' League, and has taught religion at the Holden School.

Nick and Pearl were blessed with a family of six children. They received their education at Holden School. Gerald, married to Audrey Field, is a carpenter and woodworker by trade. He is employed by Woodward's in Edmonton. They have a family of three boys and they live in Ardrossan. Janet married Marcel Podlosky and they reside in St. Albert. Marcel's position is a merchandise controller for Sears. They have one son. Sonia married Ronald Mulick and they reside on the family farm south of Holden. Besides farming, Ronald has an accounting firm. They have one daughter. Neil resides in Tofield and is apprenticing for a mechanic at Sears Ltd. in Edmonton. Grant also resides in Tofield and is employed by A.G.T. in Vegreville. Daniel is at home attending school at Holden.

Shihinski, Peter and Tillie

Peter Shihinski was born in Malniw, Austria, in 1890 to parents William and Mary, one of a family of six. At the age of nineteen, with financial help from a family member, he was able to purchase transportation by ship to Canada. He arrived in Canada in 1909 and obtained employment with C.P. and C.N. railways at various locations throughout Alberta.



The family of Peter and Tillie Shihinski, 1936.



Peter and Tillie Shihinski in 1948.

In 1914 Peter married Tillie Chorney and farmed briefly with her parents, Anton and Anastasia Chorney in the Holden area. He purchased a quarter section of land eight miles north of Daysland and farmed there until his passing in 1956. Mrs. Tillie Shihinski passed away in 1966.

Peter and Tillie Shihinski raised a family of eight children, John the eldest died at the age of one year. Katherine is married to Ed Shott of Camrose. Anne married Merv Simon. She is widowed and lives in Camrose. Mary is married to Louie Shott of Camrose. William is deceased. Nick married Pearl Rurka and lives in Holden. Alex married to Elsie Harmider, is farming the family farm, Bernie married Shirley Kruth and they live in Daysland.

Shyba and Pochynok Families

Bill and Mary Shyba farmed in the Haight area for many years, and later they farmed near Holden. After retiring they moved into Holden and because of health reasons moved to a nursing home in Viking. Bill passed away in 1982. The Shybas had five sons and one daughter. Alec lives in Camrose, Olga Rurka lives in Vancouver, B.C., Walter and Jack live in Calgary, and Harry is farming in the Haight area. Martin of Calgary passed away in 1982.



Pochynock Family. Back Row: Nancy, Ann, hired lady, Mrs. Pochynock, Wm. Pochynock, Emily. Front Row: Bob, Sophie and Joe.

In 1958 Harry married Sophie, daughter of Bill and Mary Pochynok, who farmed for many years. After retiring they moved to Vegreville. Bill passed away in 1972. The Pochynoks had a family of four daughters and two sons. Nancy is living at Prince George, Emily at Wainwright, Bob on the home place, Dr. Joseph in Edmonton, Ann at Vegreville, and Sophie at Holden.

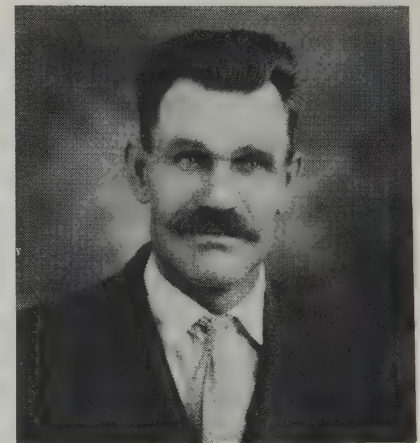
Harry and Sophie have a family of four children. Bill the eldest born in 1959, lives in Edmonton and works at Stelco since finishing high school. Roger

born in 1961, chose to farm after graduating from high school. Edward, born in 1963, graduated from high school, and is planning on further education. Brenda, born in 1965, is still attending Holden school and taking grade twelve.

Harry and Sophie are engaged in mixed farming, which includes an egg business, as well as raising cattle and pigs. During the winter the whole family is involved in curling, and they all enjoy fast ball during the summer.

Siegel, Gottlieb and family

Gottlieb Siegel Sr. was born in White Russia. In 1894 Gottlieb and his wife Eva, along with their children, Gottlieb Jr., Amanda Natalie and Apolona left the province of Volynia, Russia, and came to Canada taking a homestead in the Colchester district southeast of Edmonton.



Gottlieb Siegel.

It was a hard start, a log house and other buildings had to be built. The land was cleared with the aid of an axe and grub hoe, and plowed with horses. Later another farm was acquired in the same area, to which the family moved. In 1900-01 Gottlieb Jr. known to most people as George, took over his father's farm.

In 1902, in a double wedding, Gottlieb Jr. and Katharina Martins and David Martins and Natalie Siegel were united in wedlock. In 1913 Gottlieb, Katharina and five children moved to Waldheim, Saskatchewan. They lived there for three years before deciding to come back to Alberta, buying a farm near Bruce. They experienced many hardships here too, as there were many crop failures. The family lived in a building without a floor until a frame house was constructed.

The Siegels had a family of ten; Ella born in 1904, Martha in 1907, Bert in 1909, Arthur in 1910, Herman in 1912, Wilhelm in 1916, Edna and Clarence (twins) in 1918, Rosena in 1919, and Hale in 1922. Gottlieb's wife Katharina, Ella and Clarence died while the family lived at Bruce.



Siegel children. Back Row: Ella, Martha, Art. Middle Row: Bert, Herman, Wilhelm. Front Row: Rosina, Edna, (Hale is missing).

In 1922 Gottlieb sold his farm at Bruce, and bought another two miles east of Holden (SW18-49-15) and part of NW7-49-15. They belonged to the Longridge school district.

Martha was married to Barney Hurum, and they had one daughter, Genevieve. Barney lived most of his life around Holden, and was a great hockey and ball player. He passed away in 1942. (See Hurum history.)

Bert is married to Lillian Lindbeck, Wilhelm to Verna Van Sickle, Edna was married to Ed Simons who died in 1968. She then married Wally Sappok. Rosena married Edward Kadatz. Hale was married to Natalie Trach who died in 1969. He married Elisha Pfaw in 1976.

Gottlieb Siegel married Alvina Lambrecht in 1930, and moved back to south Edmonton, where he passed away in 1956 and Alvina in 1982.

Martha and Art lived on the farm at Holden until 1967 when they sold and moved to Edmonton. Art passed away in 1977.

Sizer, Arthur (Bud) and Family by Carol Chomic

Arthur Millar Sizer was born in Stafford, Kansas, U.S.A. in 1896, along with a twin sister Alice, who was a little older; as Bud says, he was a gentleman and let her be born first. Arthur was better

known as Bud, a nickname he acquired in early life because of his rosy cheeks. Very few people actually knew him as Arthur. Bud's parents were Emma (Payne) and Elam Sizer who emigrated from Stafford, Kansas to Alberta in 1903 and homesteaded south of Holden on the SE¼-7-48-15. In later years this became Bud's property.



25th Anniversary of Clara and Arthur Sizer. Back Row: Ronald, Clara, Arthur, Verla. Front Row: Lorne and Carol.

When Fairview School was built, Bud's father and older brother Jim hauled the lumber for it with two wagons, pulled by four oxen per wagon. At twelve years of age, he finally got to go to school with his two sisters, Alice and Lucy, but Bud only went to grade four. The Sizer boys and some neighbours had a hockey team called the "Sizer Bear Cats". They used to go to Holden and play against Sam, George and Abe Black, who were on a local team.

When Bud was a younger lad his twin sister saved his life by putting a wheelbarrow under him when he fell through a hole in the hay wagon, before he almost hanged himself.

There were always interesting things to do on the farm. Bud especially liked riding the calves, so long as his sister Alice watched around the barn door, or corral fence to make sure that Father didn't catch him



Neighborhood gathering at Sam Johnsons. Grandma Sizer seated in front row.

and hang a licking on his bottom. I guess all his early years of calf riding is what made him a great cowboy in later years.

The first Bruce Stampede was in 1914 with the main participants being Bud and Charlie Sizer, and Lewie and Lars Ritland. At that time there wasn't even a corralled area for riding. The four boys gained quite a reputation in the following years. Bud was well known for even riding the bulls backwards, as well as forwards, which is difficult enough. He also did double duty sometimes when the other boys pulled a difficult horse to ride he would switch chaps, hat, scarf and vest with them and take their ride. The four boys rode in a number of places: Tofield, Amisk, Daysland, Camrose and Stoney Creek, and even in Edmonton. Bud finally quit riding in 1938, after approximately twenty-three years. He had collected numerous ribbons and a fair amount of prize money for his efforts.

In 1917 at the age of twenty-one Bud was drafted into the army for two years. When they made it overseas during World War I his group was quarantined in Liverpool because of the mumps.

In 1928 Bud married Clara, daughter of Emil and Minnie Magnuson from south of Ryley. They resided on the home place in a two storey house that had been built in 1910. Later in 1935 a big barn was built. It was a mixed farming type of operation with all kinds of animals and fowl. Bud was one of the first in the area to have a pull type combine in the mid-thirties. This was quite a change from the threshing machine days when he used to go out and work for Bill Phillips and his steam engine outfit. Bud was quite mechanical and did most of his own repair work. He also had quite a reputation with animal doctoring and was called out just as often as the local vet.

Clara was a good homemaker and a very hard working woman. She, like most farm wives, helped with the barnyard chores and some field work besides growing a huge garden and raising a family of four children. Ronald was born in 1930, Verla 1936, Lorne 1945, and Carol in 1946.

Ronald left home to live in the north country. He bought a farm and settled first at Rycroft, then bought a farm at Worsley. He never could seem to get trucking out of his blood and always reverted to driving semi's, hauling freight as well as farming. Ron and Vivian had two children, Jerry and Jane. Ron died in 1975 from a heart attack.

Verla married Harry Korrall, a carpenter-construction worker. In 1962 they lived in Fort Chipewyan where she cooked for a camp crew. When the family moved back to Edmonton, Verla obtained a position at the Royal Alex Hospital as a dietary aid.



Bud Sizer steer riding.

Verla and Harry had three children, Roger, Wayne and Linda.

Lorne finished school and went north to help Ronald farm and also got a taste of trucking so now he owns his own gravel truck and van. Until the birth of their first child, a boy, his wife Kathy worked as a cook in the Fairview Hospital.

Carol married Alvin Chomic from the Holden district and they lived in Edmonton for ten years with Alvin working at various jobs. They had three children, Cindy, Craig and Penelope. In 1975 they moved back to Holden where Alvin opened up A&A Electric and Machining. Carol works at Ryalta Industries in Ryley as a parts person. In 1980 they built and moved into their own new home located on 50th street and 51st ave. where Bill Kashman's shop used to stand.

In 1979 Bud and Clara sold the two quarters of land and retired from farming. A month after they moved to town the old farm house accidentally burned down. It was heart breaking to realize that seventy years of memories had gone up in flames.

At the present time Clara resides at Northview Manor, a self contained housing unit for senior citizens in Holden. The Angus McGuigan Nursing Home is where Bud is at the present time. Just before his eighty-sixth birthday he suffered a stroke and was critically ill, but unbelievably, a year later he is almost his normal self. He even likes to take the nurses out on the dance floor for a few turns on the nights when the patients have their parties.

Clara celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday in 1982. They are proud of their descendants of four children and nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. I am sure they look back on their past with as much pride as their ancestors did before them, because of their accomplishments.

Sizer, Charles and Family by Lorraine (Sizer) Knudson

Charles Ray Sizer was born at Stafford, Kansas,

in 1892. He arrived at Holden in the late summer of 1904 with his parents Elam and Emma Sizer, and two brothers and three sisters.

Sergina Margaret Nohr was born a Honvem-dalen, Sweden in 1900, immigrating to Holden with her mother, three sisters and a brother in 1906. They were reunited with their father who had arrived two years earlier.



Sergina and Charlie Sizer.

The Sizers and Nohrs had taken up homesteads only a mile and a half apart so Sergina and Charles grew up and attended school together.

In 1924, they were united in marriage at Knox Church in Calgary, Charles brother Bud took them to Holden to catch the train, using a horse and buggy for transportation, as there was no snow that year. After their marriage they settled on the NE-7-48-15, one mile south of Magnus Nohrs and half a mile north of Elam Sizers. Here they farmed half a section of land and raised their family. Things weren't easy in those days and farming began with oxen, gradually working up to the modern equipment.

Charles being a rodeo contestant attended many stampedes in Bruce and other Alberta points, along with Jack Coates, Louis Ritland, Lars Ritland and Bud Sizer, leaving Sergina alone to do the chores and look after the children. Sometimes she would go to the Bruce Stampede but often found it much easier to stay at home where the children were more content.

Charles was one of the founders of the Bruce Stampede in 1914. The first stampedes were held where the elevators now stand. They didn't have corrals then, but the pickup horses were great, so the cowboys were picked off without too much difficulty.

Midsummer (June 24) was a family tradition that Sergina kept for many years and with much prepara-

tion. It wasn't just food, but often the decorations; an arch of wild roses would decorate the gateway, platform built for dancing, and benches for sitting. Most of the activities were held outside with fun for all from babes in arms to grandpas and grandmas. People came from Ryley, Holden, Bruce and even the Camrose area for dancing, games and visiting.

Baby sitters were unheard of, so the children were taken with their parents. Sergina would go to the fields, pulling the children and lunch in a toy wagon, to do the stooking, or haying, then back home in the evening to do the chores. The children were then put in the empty manger, to play with the cats while the cows were being milked and before bringing the horses in for the night.

Six children were born to this union. Three girls passed away, Bertha, lived one month, a still born and Lloyes died from pneumonia in 1939 at the age of four. Lorraine married Alvin Knudson and lives in Camrose. They have three sons, two daughters and two grandchildren.



Charlie Sizer, Lewie Ritland and Bud Sizer, 1920.

Elmer, their only son never married and lives in Edmonton.

Elvira married Dr. José de Aguilar and lives in Cuenca, Ecuador, South America. They have two sons and a daughter.

The Sizers had a threshing machine and did custom work for many years until the combines took over. During the war years, when help was hard to get

with so many of the boys gone, the Sizers with two teams, two racks and Elmer and Lorraine, managed to get the grain in the granaries while Elvira made the meals.

Charles served as councillor for many years and did run as candidate in 1943 when the municipal district was enlarged.

He was also a trustee for the Fairview School district until that was enlarged.

The Sizers farmed until 1973 when they had an auction sale and moved to Camrose. Charles passed away in 1978 at Camrose and was buried at the Holden Cemetery. The farm was sold in 1978 to Howard Sawers. Sergina still resides in their house in Camrose and is quite capable of looking after herself.

Sizer, Dick family

by Zella Gier and Gurine Hammer

Dick Sizer was born in 1888 in Stafford, Kansas. In 1904 his parents Mr. and Mrs. Elam Sizer, three sisters Carrie, Alice and Lucy and three brothers Jim, Bud and Charles, migrated to Canada where the west was being opened for settlers. Being among the first settlers, they settled on a homestead ten miles south east of Holden, in the Fairview district. The hardships were many as they had to travel by oxen to Wetaskiwin for supplies. This sometimes took a week. Dick later took up a homestead on the SE 6-48-15-W4, and built a frame house. It took much time and effort to clear the land for planting of crops.

In 1914, at Viking, Dick married Mabel Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Olson.

They struggled through the depression of the 30's always working hard. Though there was not much

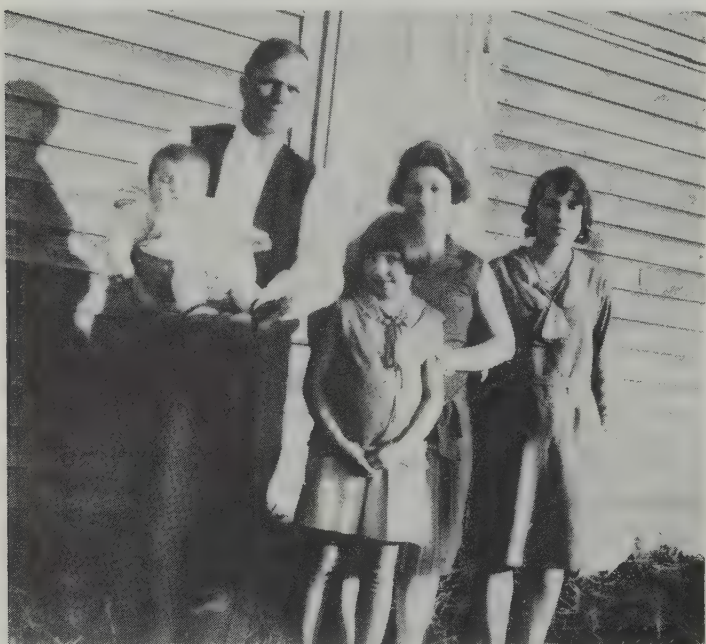
profit on the farm there was always enough to eat. Our parents did their own butchering, curing of meat, etc. Mother always did a lot of canning, churned butter, baked bread, and grew a lot of vegetables. We raised turkeys to add to the income. The milk, cream, and butter were hung on a rope down the well pit to keep them cool.

The radio first came to our house about 1926. Dad enjoyed Amos and Andy. Other sources of entertainment during the long winter evenings were looking at Eaton's catalogue, The Free Press and an occasional game of cards.

In the spring of 1944 the family moved to the town of Holden, after having an auction sale of stock and machinery. Harry Olson bought the farm. The Sizers bought the Nowodworski house south of the railroad tracks in Holden. Dick met with a tragic accident which took his life in 1956 at the age of 68 years, when working in a United Grain Growers elevator annex, which collapsed in an avalanche of wheat. Mabel's health began to fail, so she sold her home in 1973 and moved to Vialta Lodge in Viking and resided there for about a year until her death in 1974 at the age of 81 years.



Mabel and Dick Sizer at home in Holden.



Back Row: Dick holding Gurene, Mabel, Gladys with Zella in front.

Dick and Mabel had a family of three daughters. Gladys (1914-1937) married Freddy Johnson. They had one son Keith Johnson. Zella born in 1920, married Erling Henderson (deceased 1971) in 1940. They had two daughters Lois and Donna. Zella married Ernie Gier in 1976 and resides in Taber, Alberta. Gurine born in 1930, married Clifford Hammer of Viking in 1954. They have one daughter, Melanie and one son, Richard.

Sizer, Elam and Family by Lorraine (Sizer) Knudson

Elam Sizer was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1846 and Emma (Payne) was born in England in 1853. They were married and immigrated to Illinois in 1884 with a young family. In 1887 the family then moved to Lincoln County in Kansas.

After hearing the C.P.R. was advertising land in what is now Alberta, their son Jim applied and in 1903 with covered wagon, a team of horses, plus a bed, food, a dog, a colt and a bicycle, he travelled for about a month before reaching Wetaskiwin.



Mr. and Mrs. Elam Sizer, Jim and Dick.

After a short rest, he travelled the trail to what is now Holden. Looking over the country, he decided to settle ten miles southeast of Holden. Liking what he saw, he then decided to send for his folks.

It was late summer of 1904 when Jim met his folks, six children and their belongings in Wetaskiwin.

Mrs. Sizer and four of the children stayed with some people along the way for ten days, while Mr. Sizer and sons went on. They arrived at their farm and completed building the log house Jim had started, also adding on a lean-to, where the family lived.

To this union, nine children were born. As medical attention was scarce in those days, one girl died of scarlet fever and a boy of whooping cough. Elam passed away at his home in 1923 after being ill with pneumonia for three days. Later that year their youngest daughter Lucy, Mrs. Louis Ritland, passed away also of pneumonia. She left two small children, Bertha aged five and Lawrence aged three.

In 1904 Jim married, bringing his bride to Holden where they lived for six years before moving to the Camrose area. In 1922 he moved to California where he passed away.

In May 1937, Mrs. Elam Sizer passed away leaving her five children, Richard (Dick), Carrie (Mrs. Wm. Olson), Charles and the twins Arthur (Bud) and Alice (Mrs. Geo. Olberg).

As of April 1982, Arthur (Bud) is the only living member of this pioneer family.

Skakum, Peter and Stania

Peter Skakum came to Canada and to Holden in 1910 from Austria. In 1913 he sent for his wife Stania and small son Tommy. They had five children, Tommy, Fred, Rose, Mary and Annie.



Tommy Skakum and friend in England, W. W. II.

Tommy married Rosemary Christmas while serving in the army in England during World War II. They have twin daughters, Ruth, Mrs. Pete Murray and Neomie, Mrs. Pete Goodall, as well as four grandchildren, Rebecca, Jacob; Jennifer and Colin.

Fred married Gladys Helley of Ryley. They have one daughter Lila, Mrs. Jim Orchin, three grandchildren, Linda, Lori and Jamie. Fred worked at Liden's store for many years, first after school and then full time. He was active in sports, played hockey in the gas line league, also coached and played ball, and later became an umpire and president of The Alberta Baseball Umpires Association in Edmonton.

Rose married Roy Malaniuk of Edmonton. They have a daughter Olga, Mrs. Will Hamilton, a son Gerald who married Denise Peroneau, also four grandchildren, James, Donald, Valerie and David.

Mary married Lorne Patterson of Edmonton. They have two daughters Bonnie and Heather.

Annie married Bill Kwasnisky of Holden and they have one son Wayne.



Freddy Skakum in front of Liden's Store.

In 1927 Peter Skakum passed away after many years of work on the Canadian National Railroad.

Mrs. Skakum passed away in 1955 in Edmonton where she had lived since 1934.

Lila received many honors for her singing. She sang often in the Kiwanis Music Festival and always came in first or second. When she was twelve years old she won the C.F.R.N. search for talents; at age sixteen she received a scholarship to the Banff School of Fine Arts and received many other honors through the years. She is now an R.N.A. at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Skolney, Joseph

Joseph was born in 1907 in the Kopernick district to Joe and Annie Skolney. He was the second oldest of three children. He attended Unity School. At that time teachers were scarce, and he only attended school three months of a year. He remained at home and farmed with his dad until 1937, when his dad gave him a quarter section of land.

He married Olga Rasko of Redwater in 1938, and they settled on his farm south of Holden. Here they raised their two daughters, Ellen and Patricia. They retired in 1969, and moved to Viking where they built a home. Joe passed away in 1974. Olga continues to reside in Viking, and is presently employed at the Viking General Hospital.

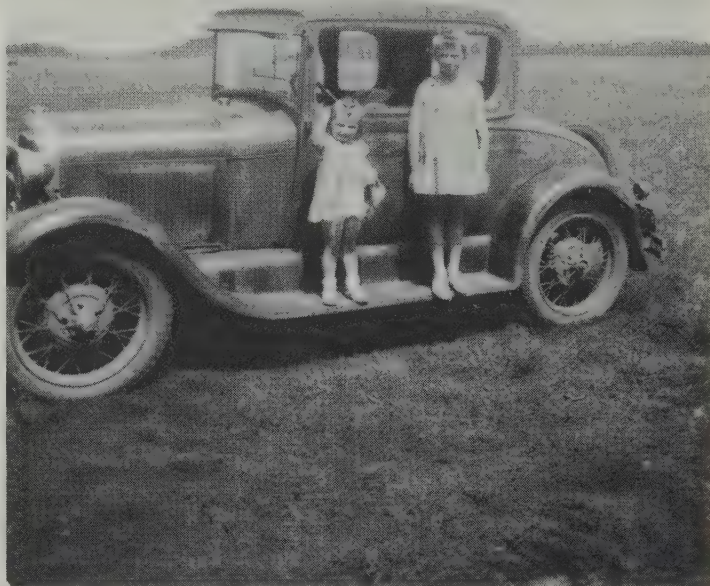
Ellen, born in 1941, received her education at



Joseph and Olga Skolney 1939.

Unity and Bruce Schools, graduating in 1959. She then worked in the office of R. Angus Caterpillar in Edmonton. In 1960 she married Frank Vitek and they farm in the Viking district. They have three children, daughters Jackie and Elaine, and a son Garry.

Patricia was born in 1944, she attended Unity and Bruce Schools, graduating in 1961. She continued her education at Alberta College, and was employed with A.G.T., where she still works. She married Ben Szott of Daysland in 1968. They reside in Edmonton and have one child, Cory.



Ellen and Patricia Skolney with 1928 Ford.

Sloboda, Paul and Annie

In 1929, Paul and Bill Sloboda moved to Holden from St. Michael, Alberta. They purchased three quarters of land three miles north of Holden. In 1930, Paul married Annie Faryna who resided in the Kopernick area. They made their first home on the land purchased by Paul earlier. They worked and lived there for seven years. Their first son, Russell arrived in 1931. Because of the depression Paul and Annie lost the property and were forced to move into Holden. Paul started up trucking. Also born to Paul and Annie was Olga in 1938, Ernie in 1940 and Eugene in 1942. Because there was not enough business they moved to Creston, B.C. in 1942, to make a better life for themselves. There Paul got a job in a sawmill, and Annie took up work in the garden fields, to help the family's finances. After two years they moved back to Holden. There Paul continued in the trucking business. They rented a house from Stanley Mielimaka about half a mile south of Holden where they lived for about two years, until they built their home in Holden. In 1950, a daughter named Joyce was born.



Sloboda family. Joyce, Olga, Annie, Paul, Russell, Ernie, Eugene.

In 1951, the family moved to a farm north of Viking. There they farmed the land and Paul continued with his trucking business until 1971. By this time all the children were on their own and Paul and Annie retired but continued living on the farm until 1979. In September of that year they purchased a home in Vegreville and moved into town where they are presently residing.

Paul and Annie Sloboda's Children

Russell married Vickie Draganiuk and they have six children. They are presently farming north of Viking.

Olga, and her husband, Mike Semotiuk, have five children. They live in Vegreville where Olga is employed with A.G.T. Data Centre.

Ernie married Kathy Kryzanowski. They have four children and live in Abbotsford, B.C. where Ernie is employed as a teacher. He received his education in Ellensburg, Washington's University.

Eugene attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Later he took one year of business administration in San Francisco, California. There he became employed with the Bank of America as a Vice President, a senior credit officer. He married Merrilee Silva, from Sacramento, California. They have two children. At present they are stationed at Kobe, Japan.

The youngest daughter of Paul and Annie, Joyce, received one year of education at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton in business financing. She is married to Jim Williams and they have two children. Presently they reside in Edmonton where Joyce is employed in an employer accounting office.

Slonopas, Felix

Felix Slonopas was born in 1910, at Tomashow, Poland. In 1928, Felix and his parents, Maryanna and Joseph, came to Canada to settle in the Holden area. At first, the Slonopas family rented a house which was on the same property as Vermillion Valley School. They worked for the neighbors for two years before buying land of their own in 1930, SW-34-48-16. There were only seven acres of land cultivated.



Joseph Slonopas and Sophie.

Horses were very expensive to buy then, even the skinny, weak ones went at a high price at sales. The Slonopases couldn't afford the good ones, so they bought the poor horses. Before these horses could be used for any work, they had to be fed and allowed to get stronger. Slowly with a lot of hard work the land was cleared and plowed and ready for farming.

In 1932, Felix married Sophie, daughter of Alexander and Mary Cedar from the Adams School district. They had two children Emily born in 1933 and Johnny in 1936. In 1936 Sophie and Felix rented land north of Holden, and in 1938 bought N½-32-48-16 south of Holden.

Joseph Slonopas passed away in 1942. His wife, Maryanna continued farming with her son Felix and his family.



Felix Slonapas.

Felix and Sophie had two more children. Mary was born in 1944 and Bernie was born in 1947.

Emily and Johnny, both went to Vermillion Valley School. Emily went on to High school in Holden. Mary took grade one in Vermillion Valley but the school was closed down and she continued her education in Holden. Bernie went to Holden School for all his education.

In the fall of 1949 Felix's mother, Maryanna retired to Holden, where she lived until her passing on Christmas Day in 1967.

In 1953, Felix bought a van type bus and drove the children from his farming area to Holden School. He kept this route until 1956, at which time he sold

the bus. This was shortly after the tragic bus accident at Lamont.

Sophie and Felix farmed until 1965 when they moved to Edmonton where their children were living.

In 1970, Felix and Sophie took a trip to Poland. Felix had been away for forty two years. They brought many memories back with them that they shared with their family.

Felix sold the farm in 1973 and in March of 1974 he passed away. Sophie, still resides in Edmonton. Emily married Robin Huculak from the Calmar area. They now live in Kelowna, B.C. with their son. Another son passed away in 1983. Johnny married Shirley Royer of Edmonton. They also moved to Kelowna with their two girls. Mary married Nick Sass who came to Edmonton from the Yorkton area in Saskatchewan. They have one girl and three boys. The youngest, Bernie also married an Edmonton girl, Janet Mohr, and they have made Vancouver their home.

Slywka, William and Mary

William emigrated from Galicia, Austria with his parents, John and Anna Slywka in 1897. They landed in Halifax, then came to the Haight district in Alberta.

William married Mary, daughter of Demetric and Anna Yewchin of Northern Valley, Alberta. They homesteaded in the Haight district and farmed until retiring in 1964, when they moved to Holden. William passed away in October 1964. Mary is residing at 5023-50 Ave. Holden. They were active members of Borschiw St. John's Greek Catholic Church, and now Mary is an active member of Holden Greek Catholic Church.

They had three children, Sister Cassianna S.S.M.I., Lillian and Russel. They received their schooling at Thule, Haight, Togo and Holden School.

Sister Cassianna is now stationed in Schonstr, Munchen, West Germany.

Lillian married John Macahonic and are farming on the family homestead in the Haight district. They have three children, Bruce, Christine and Evonne, who completed their education at Holden School. Bruce married Donna, daughter of Harry and Carrie Huley of Lamont. They live in Vegreville and have two daughters, Candice and Cheryl. Bruce is a heavy duty mechanic.

Christine is furthering her career as Librarian at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. Evonne is presently employed in Vegreville.

Russell married Diane, daughter of Peter and

Sophie Jobber of Holden. They moved to Sherwood Park in 1964, where Russell teaches at a separate school. They have two daughters, Betty Lou and Michelle, both are still in school.

Smailes, Fred and Helen

Helen

by Margaret and Ross Zwierschke

Mr. and Mrs. Smailes were residents of Holden for many years. Helen Waters Smailes was born in West Port, Ontario in 1893. She was a graduate of Toronto Conservatory of Music and used her musical talent for the benefit and enjoyment of others. She gave much of her time and talent to teaching children the love and appreciation of music.

The Smailes were active in the Holden United Church. Mrs. Smailes trained some of the choirs. Mr. Smailes played the organ for the Masonic Lodge and occasionally the church.

Mrs. Smailes, a dedicated and gifted musician took on the teaching of piano to several students. She did a most gratifying work with them for which she will long be remembered.

She had a fantastic talent for rewriting piano music and adapting it to be played with one hand. Her devotion to music and people was kept alive right to the end of her days, as she lived and breathed music. Developing music in her students and the children she loved so much was the desire of her heart. Our gratitude to her can never be expressed in words.

Her niece, Mrs. Donald Ramsey of Edmonton was a great comfort to her during her illness. Mrs. Smailes passed away in 1954, after a lengthy illness. Left to mourn her passing was her husband Fred, many relatives and a host of friends. She will always be remembered as a very gracious lady.

Fred

by Evelyn Erickson

Fred was the secretary of the Holden School Division part of the time Ed. Erickson was Superintendent. He stayed on a short while after we left. After Helen's passing he lived in Edmonton for a time — later he married again and lived in Vancouver. He was very happy there living in retirement.

After his second wife died he lived alone but eventually due to ill health he had to move into an auxiliary hospital. He was never happy there and passed away shortly after one of our visits with him. He was a wonderful person and a very dear friend. He was always known as "Uncle Freddie" by our children as well as ourselves.

Smorlie, Auslage

Auslage Smorlie was born in Norway. He married Rachel Olsen, and they had two children born in Norway. Their son passed away there, and one daughter Mary, came to the United States with them. Little is known of their younger years. They had many hardships in the early days. Mother used to tell



The Smorlie sisters. Standing: Anna, Rhoda, Celia. Sitting: Lena and Mary.

of the storms when they had to tie a rope between the house and barn in case a storm came up in winter, and they could find their way to the barn and back. They came to Canada in 1902. When they first settled here, there was water all over the land, so they built their first log house on a high spot on their new homestead.



Auslage Smorlie farm.

Mrs. Smorlie didn't live very many years after they came here. They had five daughters and two sons, Lena, Mary, Celia, Anna Rhoda, Ole and Olaf. Lena married Sam Parker who passed away in 1907. She married Gunder Gunderson, in 1911. Mary married Anton Evenson, Celia married Albert Oppen, Anna married Joe Gunderson, Rhoda, John Kasper-son, Ole, Bertha Gunderson and Olaf, married Mary Grasdahl. The two youngest girls were home with their father until they married. Then he and a brother Evan batched for a time. He sold his farm to his son Olaf, and lived his last years with his daughter Lena Gunderson. He passed away there in 1939.

Smorlie, Olaf and Irene **by Irene Smorlie MacGregor**

Olaf Olson Smorlie was born in Lyman County South Dakota, U.S.A. In 1902 he came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Auslage Smorlie, his brother Ole and his five sisters Mary, Annie, Lena, Celia and Rhoda, to the Holden area. His father took out a homestead half a mile north of where Zion Lutheran Church is now. Ole married a Gunderson girl, Mary married Anton Evenson, Annie married Joe Gunderson, Lena married Gunder Gunderson, Celia married Albert Oppen and Rhoda married Joe Kasper-son. The Anton Evansons moved up near Rola, B.C. and the John Kaspersons settled near Sexsmith. The rest of the family remained around here. Their mother passed away in 1910, but their father lived until 1938.



Olaf Smorlie and Bill Zigler hauling hay, 1938.

Olaf married Mary Grasdahl. They had two girls, Connie and Agnes. Mary died in the thirties. Agnes Reid is living in Calgary, but Connie Screen passed away some time ago.

I was born Irene Viola Zigler at Prestville, near Spirit River. In 1936 I came to the Holden district to work. Olaf Smorlie and I were married in 1949. At first we had very little grain in, as trees had to be cut and grubbed out by hand. The land had to be broken by a horse drawn breaking plow. In winter we sawed up the cut trees for firewood. We milked many cows by hand. Then, cream had to be taken by horses and cutter to the station, to be shipped to the creamery. Later, when we got a little money we bought an old Ford car. Since there was no block heater to plug in, we used two old plugs (horses), to pull "Old Lizzie" around to get her started.



Olaf and Irene Smorlie, 1970.

My mother, Jenneve Marie Zigler lived with us for some time, until her passing in 1955.

In 1960 we moved to Holden into the house where Mrs. Sorgen used to live. During the years in Holden we used to cut lawn, trim trees, do housework in general, shovel snow, etc. For a while I helped to cook at Clark's Cafe out at the auction mart east of town. I baby sat for so many children that I became known as Auntie Smorlie. Olaf Smorlie passed away in 1972.

On August 3rd in 1976, Donald MacGregor and I were married. We lived on his farm for a year. When his son and family came, I moved back into my house

in Holden, where I still reside. My brother, William Zigler has made his home here for about two years.

I get pleasure from visiting shut-ins in homes, manors and hospitals. For many years I have taken people in my car to their medical appointments and to visit their friends. I enjoy going to church and served there as a janitor for some time. I like to be a home body, enjoy company, and love to have many friends come to visit. All are most welcome.

Smorlie, Ole Elias **by Ruth Steeden (Smorlie)**

Ole Elias was born in South Dakota, U.S.A. and came to Canada in the early 1900's with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Auslage Smorlie, five sisters Lena, Mary, Anna, Celia and Rhoda, and one brother Olaf.

In 1911 he married Bertha Gundersen and they moved to their homestead N.W. ¼-12-48-17.

Bertha was born at Lennox, South Dakota in 1891. She came to Canada with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Angrim Gundersen, two brothers, Gunder and Joseph, four sisters, Mollie, Isabel, Josie and Olena.

The Zion Lutheran Church was built on the N.W. corner of section 11. Ole had purchased the north half of that section earlier.

Ole and Bertha Smorlie had one daughter Ruth

Alvira, born in 1919. They farmed there until Ole passed away in 1929. Bertha passed away in 1981 when she was ninety years old. She had lived in Edmonton since 1934.

In 1942 their daughter Ruth married Eric Case-more Steeden from Colonsay, Saskatchewan. They had one daughter Beverly Ann born in 1946. In 1966 Beverly married Colin James Macgregor. They have two children. They all reside in Edmonton.

Sollid, Emil and Family **by Harda Hendrickson**

Emil Sollid came to Canada in June 1913, via the Empress of Ireland. His wife Ida and daughter Emina-da followed in May, 1914 on the same ship. Eminda celebrated her first birthday in mid-ocean on the ill-fated ship (for it sank in Canadian waters as it began its return voyage to England). The sinking of the Empress of Ireland ranks as one of the great tragedies of the world, as many lives were lost. When the news of the sinking reached Norway, the relatives there thought it had sunk on the way to Canada, but Mr. Sollid, foreseeing this, sent a telegram telling of the safe arrival of his wife and daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Sollid settled in the Kingman district where Harda, Elmer, Olga, Edmund and Mabel



The Sollid Family: Back Row: Lillian, Olga, Eddie, Elmer, Mabel, Bernice. Middle Row: Vernon, Minda. Front Row: Mr. Sollid, Irene, Harda, Ester, Mrs. Sollid.

were born. Then they moved to the Knudt Johnson farm in the Palmer-Earling district, southwest of Holden in 1922. Here Lillian, Bernice and Vernon were born. Midwives at Palmer were Mrs. Hans Husby and Mrs. Sorgen. In 1929 the family moved to New Norway where Esther and Irene were born. Their eleven children were all born at home. Irene was the only one who had a doctor (Dr. Lamb of Camrose) attending her arrival. In 1936 Mr. Sollid bought the Aarsnes acreage in Bawlf. Here the family resided until the children were married. Mrs. Sollid passed away in 1953. Shortly after, Mr. Sollid sold the acreage and moved to Camrose where he worked at St. Mary's Hospital as a steam engineer until his death in 1968.

Eminda married Lavergne Bauer of New Norway. (Lavergne died overseas in 1945). They had three children, Allan, Eleanor and Betty. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lacterman (Eminda) reside at Palm Springs.

Harda married Thomas Hendrickson of Bawlf. Their children are; Harvey, Janice, Carol, Darrel, Margery and Randy. All are married with families of their own. Dennis, Darrel's twin brother, passed away in 1971 following heart surgery. Thomas, a carpenter, has built several homes in the Bawlf-Camrose area. He also helped build army camps for World War II in Camrose and Wainwright and the shipyard in Prince Rupert.

Elmer and his wife Christine (Brink) live at Hagensbourg, B.C. They have two sons, Ernie and Ronnie. Elmer met Christine when he and Mr. Sollid worked at Tallhoe Fishing Cannery at Bella Coola during the summers of 1930-1942. During this period, Mr. Sollid sold B.C. fish in the winter time.

Olga married George Mills (R.C.A.F.) Their children are Clifford, Carol, Linda and Larry. George continued to serve in the Air Force after World War II, and passed away shortly after his retirement from the service. Mr. and Mrs. Larke (Olga) reside in Edmonton.

Edmund and his wife Iris (Musfelt) reside in Red Deer. They have two daughters, Wendy and Sandra, and one son Eddie. Edmund began carpentering in Bawlf and is now building inspector.

Mable married Bill Tylosky. They lived on the farm homesteaded by Bill's father at the turn of the century. Their children are Mavis, Lavergne, Kenny, Doug and Merleda. Bill passed away in 1981.

Lillian, Mrs. Joe Baynes, reside in Wetaskiwin. They have three children, Gail, and twins Donna and Debbie. A daughter Beverly, passed away at an early age.

Bernice married Bill Wyrozub and they reside in Lacombe. They have two sons, Randy and Ricky.

Vernon and his wife Faye (Gaalaas) live in Ed-

monton. They have seven children, Cheryl, Elaine, Vernon, Brenda, Bobby, Christine and Tracy. Vernon began his career as a steam engineer at the Bawlf Cheese Factory. He is now Boiler Inspector for the Government.

Esther married Bob Thorn of Bawlf, and lived in Bawlf for a few years. Janie and Bobby were born here. They moved to Erskine where Bob was manager of the Erskine Hotel. Shortly after this Bob died in an airplane crash at Red Deer in 1954. Mr. and Mrs. Doug McColl (Esther) live in Victoria, B.C.

Irene married Hal Sorensen of Bawlf. They have two children, Laurie and Larry. Irene and Hal live in Camrose where Hal is Manager of the Merit Store.

We have many memories of the time we lived in the Palmer district. Most of these were pleasant and exciting. Especially memorable were the Christmas concerts. The "Shadow Play" acted behind a white sheet, where the doctor was operating on a patient who had eaten too many live fish, was fun to watch. I remember my mother getting up very early one morning to sew seven dresses. They were our Christmas dresses plus some white ones for our Christmas concert. My favorite teacher was Annabel Maxwell when I was in grade three. Christmas dinners at some of our neighbors was always special. Dad would put straw on the bottom of the bob sleigh, a quilt over this, another one on top, and put us all under to keep warm. He always wore a fur cap and an overcoat. The horses would have sleigh bells on, and we would go a mile or two at the most as our neighbors lived close by. Those days were happy days for us children.

I remember going to school one winter morning, we had two and a half miles to walk. A man came with a grain tank full of grain. Eminda said "you jump on the back runner and I will get on this one and we will have a ride to school." The man drove on and never looked back. When we got to school my sister jumped off, and when I jumped my overshoe got caught and the sleigh runner went over my foot, crushing my big toe. I was helped into the school and Conrad Husby, with his team and cutter took me home. I missed over a month of school. We never went to doctors in those days.

What did Mr. and Mrs. Sollid contribute to Canada? If they were here today, I'm sure they would be proud of their one hundred and thirteen decedents; eleven children, forty one grandchildren, fifty eight great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. Most of us could speak Norwegian and we are indeed proud of this heritage our parents had given us. I marvel at the steadfast pioneer spirit mother had. I don't recall ever seeing her angry. When things got rough she would sing hymns. I couldn't count the number of socks and mitts she knit

to keep us warm back in those early days before the age of ski pants. Mother continued to knit and crochet when it was no longer a necessity and often remarked "I wouldn't want to live if I couldn't use my hands." Mother's good coffee, lefsa and fatig-man were set for anyone and everyone who knocked on the door.

Dad took several trips to Norway in the later years to visit relatives. Eminda accompanied him on one trip, and Olga met them in Norway during the time she and her husband were stationed in Germany.

My parents kept in contact with their many friends in the Palmer district and visited frequently.

Sorensen, Alfred and Stella

by Alfred Sorensen

I was born on a farm in the Martin's District (now Adam's) about ten miles northeast of Holden in 1913, the fifth child and only son of Karen and Henrik Sorensen. (I recall my mother telling how she had been stooking grain that day.)



Alfred and Stella Sorensen, 1939.

We moved to the N.W. 20-49-16 in the Poe district in 1915. In 1918 we moved across the C.N.R. tracks to the N.W. 29-49-16 which Dad purchased from Anton Christofferson. My first memory is of riding a big work horse chasing cattle to the new farm, and of course feeling pretty important.

I attended school in Poe for nine years, and after being out of school for one year I returned in 1929-30 to take my grade ten at Ryley High. That was the end of my schooling. For the next eight years Dad and I worked together on the farm making slow but sure progress. During that time I met Stella McCutcheon, who was teaching at Poe. Stella was born on her father's homestead in the Pleasant Valley District, eight miles southeast of Clive. At the age of ten, her parents Agnes and John McCutcheon sold their farm and moved to Edmonton where she completed her high school education. Upon receiving her first class teaching certificate from Camrose Normal School, she taught at three schools including North Star, situated on the land of her early childhood home, before coming to Poe in 1933.

In the fall of 1938 Stella quit teaching, we pooled our resources and bought a small store (groceries, confectionery, tobacco, ice cream, pop, magazines and "what-have-you"), in Edmonton. We were married in 1939.

In the spring of 1940 we sold the store, purchased N.E. 32-49-16 from Einar Arneson Estate, built a house in my parents' yard, and moved back to the farm. Our eldest son Garry was born the following November.

The following years were good to us — good crops, excellent pasture and improved prices for farm produce. We did experience hailstorms in 1945-46-47 and 51, however, having a good herd of cattle we were always able to make good use of the salvaged crops. During those hail years Stella and I became quite adept at moving furniture away from the windows every time a bad looking cloud appeared.

In August of 1947, Stella's mother died, and in October, 1947 we moved into her house in Holden, where incidentally we still live. Our youngest son, David, was born about a year later, in 1948.

In 1951, the last year I farmed I was behind in my work due to a wet spring. The elevator agent at Poe, Quesnel, offered to drive the tractor after 7:00 p.m. assuring me he was knowledgeable about farm work, but the first time he took the tractor out he became mired in a soft spot. Using a logging chain he borrowed from a neighbour across the road, he fastened a log across the rear wheels. The log came around pinning him to the steering wheel and killing him instantly. This tragic event, plus the hailstorm that year was probably instrumental in my decision to retire from farming.

During the next eighteen years I was employed as a clerk for Holden Sales Ltd., later known as Steve's Hardware, then Archie's Hardware in Holden. I also



Esther, Lisa, Garry and Scott Sorensen.

drove a school bus in the West Bruce District, and later in the Adam's District.

In 1970 I became secretary-treasurer for the village of Holden, a position I held until my retirement in 1978.

Stella returned to teaching in 1955, subbing in the High School for two years and then teaching Primary for eight years.

Now I am retired and we hang out the "Gone fishing" sign most of the summer, spend a month in the spring and fall helping in our son's orchard in Washington, and a month in the winter travelling.



Judy and David Sorensen and Shelly.

Garry our eldest son, obtained a degree in Biological Science from Montana State University, after graduating from Holden High. He taught Biology at Oroville, Washington for seventeen years, before acquiring an apple orchard. In 1980 he quit teaching to devote his time to the orchard business. While at university, he met Esther Valleja of Sydney, Montana. They were married in 1963, two days after they both graduated from Montana State. Esther taught Spanish and English in Oroville High until their son was born. They have two children Scott and Lisa.

David, our youngest son, is an instrument technician in the oil, gas and chemical field. For some time he worked on construction installing instruments in various gas plants. Then he was employed at Gulf Refinery in Edmonton. In the meantime he married Judy Pook of the Talbot School District in 1973. Both preferred a slower pace than the city, so they sold their home in Sherwood Park and moved to Bonnyville. David is maintenance foreman for British Petroleum's heavy oil installation near there. They have one child, Shelley Marie.

Sorensen, Carl family

I, Carl was born and raised on the farm of my parents, Peter and Katherine Sorensen, in the Palmer district. I attended Palmer School and later went to the Vermilion Agricultural School for two years. After graduating, I returned to farm with my folks.

In 1946 I married Ruby Meadahl, the eldest daughter of Martin and Mabel Meadahl. We rented the farm from my parents until 1967, when we retired from farming and moved to Camrose. I was employed with the City of Camrose until my retirement, while Ruby continues to work at Rosehaven.

We were blessed with three children: David who resides in Camrose is employed as a bookkeeper at



Carl Sorensen family. Back Row: Wayne Sand, Ruby and Carl, Eldon and Val Sorensen. Front Row: Shauna, Jenise and Jason Sand and David Sorensen.

Battle River Lodge. Eldon married Valerie Neihaus in 1978. He works with Border Paving in Camrose and Val with Alberta Government Telephones. Our daughter Denise married Wayne Sand in 1969, and they have two children, Shauna and Jason. Wayne is employed with Ofirim Construction.

All our children attended Bawlf School, as we lived on the south side of the boundary between the counties of Camrose and Beaver.

We and our family enjoy good health and do a fair amount of traveling when time permits.

Sorensen, Chris

Chris and Kirsten Sorensen came to Canada from Denmark in 1922; along with them also came Anna Jensen, her brothers Nels and Carl, who now reside at Ryley, Alberta. Chris and Kirsten worked for Anton Christofferson in the summer of 1922. They bought the farm from Austin Drowney in the fall of 1922. Nels Jensen and his sister Anna farmed on the former Carl Tinholm place in 1929. Nels married Herdis Pederson in 1938, and they had a daughter, Betty. Nels died of a heart attack in 1941, and Anna went to live with the Sorensens. (Anna and Kirsten were sisters.) Anna passed away in 1969.



Kirsten and Chris Sorensen and Anna Jensen.

There was an event that took place at the Sorensens during the summer months, but before this event there were many hours spent by Chris, Kirsten and Anna, cleaning their lawns, raking paths around their lawns and the large rock garden full of flowers. There were always many compliments on how beautiful it always looked. They really enjoyed gardening. A Danish minister, Pastor Rasmussen from Wayne, Alberta came to the Sorensen home several times every summer to have Danish church services. If the weather was nice it was always held outside, and after the service a lunch was served and visiting took place. There would be as many as sixty to seventy people attending, and at times more. It was always enjoyed by everyone. Pastor Rasmussen started coming in 1923, and came every summer until his health failed.



Danish Church group at Sorensen's in 1949.

Chris and Kirsten Sorensen moved to Camrose in 1960, where Kirsten passed away in 1967. Chris still lives in Camrose in his own home.

The Sorensens had a daughter named Greta. She married Angus Keith in 1959, and they took over the family farm in 1960. They had a family of five boys and three girls; Corinne, Colin, Gayleen, Evan, Audra, Waylon, Verlyn and Troy.

Corinne is married to Floyd LeClerq, and they have two boys, Shawn and Jamie, and live on a farm south of Holden. Colin worked for Hilmer Olsen at Holden, and is now helping on the farm. Gayleen graduated from High School in 1981, and is now in Camrose. Evan is graduating from grade twelve in 1982, and is now employed by A.G.T. Audra, Waylon, Verlyn and Troy are still attending school.

In 1961 Angus and Greta purchased one more quarter of land, formerly owned by Marius Pflug, now making their total land holdings one section. Marius Pflug was a friend of the Sorensen family. He



The Sorensen home where Greta and Angus Keith and family now reside.

came to Canada in 1927 from Denmark. He worked at Tommy Christensen's, then at several other places during threshing time. He did a lot of stooking and was known for how well he did it. He also worked for the National Grain Elevators in several parts of Alberta. Marius served in the second World War. He passed away in 1974 in Edmonton.

Sorensen, Esben and Family by Linea (Norman) Sorensen

Soren Esben (Stan) Sorensen was born in 1912, the eldest child of Peter and Kathrine Sorensen who resided on the NW-36-47-17 in the Palmer district. At the age of thirteen he accompanied his parents on a visit to their homeland, Denmark.



Esben and Linea Sorensen, 1970.

After taking his public schooling at Palmer he continued his education at Olds Agricultural College, graduating in 1932. Returning to Olds for his third year, a matriculation course for entrance to university, he won the gold medal for the highest standing in his class. He continued his studies at the University of Alberta where he completed the second year toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Lack of finances, due to the depression, put an end to his formal education.

Esben's first vehicle was a 1928 Model A Ford half ton truck which he bought in 1936 for \$87.00 "as is". As his first business venture he hauled fish from a northern lake and peddled them throughout the district. In addition to working on his parents' farm he worked for a time as an attendant at the Alberta Hospital in Ponoka.

Linea was born in 1915, the youngest child of Nils and Agnes Norman of the Likeness district. She attended Likeness, Bawlf High and Camrose Normal Schools. In 1929 she was awarded the Governor General's medal for having the highest marks in the grade eight departmental examination in the Camrose Inspectorate. She taught at Daresbury School south of Camrose and at Palmer School (1937-39) where she met Esben.

Esben and Linea were married in 1940 and resided for five years on their farm near Holden, the NE-22-49-16. The way they began farming may be of interest to future generations. Farm income was low but so were expenditures. Their account book from those years reveals some interesting statistics. Esben did his field work with four horses and used machinery bought at auction sales. Some of the prices paid were as follows: mower \$10, hay rake \$11.50, disk \$3, seed drill \$27, wagon and rack \$19, sleigh \$18.59, and cream separator \$14. Milk cows were purchased at \$30 each. The cream cheque was the source of a steady income, a five gallon can selling for \$3.45. This was sufficient to pay for a week's supply of groceries and other necessities. Much of the food was produced on the farm. Preserving the food entailed a lot of home canning. Oats sold for 38½¢ per bushel. Esben bought some young calves for \$9 each to consume surplus skim milk, thus increasing the size of his herd, and sold them the following year for \$50. He purchased two registered Red Poll heifers from Tom Howes of Millet for \$35. This was the foundation of what eventually became a fine herd of registered Red Polls from which he sold breeding stock.

Their home was heated with wood from their own wood lot and coal that cost \$3.40 per ton. Their first lamp was a glass pedestal coal oil model for which Esben paid 40¢ at an auction sale. This lamp is now a

treasured antique. Coal oil for lamps cost 30¢ per gallon and car gasoline was 30¢ per gallon. Land taxes on their quarter section was \$40. G.W.G. overalls cost \$2. A dentist charged \$2 for cleaning teeth. Hartvig Sorgen charged 35¢ for a haircut, and his wife Lila charge \$2 for a "perm" in her beauty parlor.

In 1945 Esben and Linea sold their quarter near Holden and bought a half section in the Likeness district, the SW-30-47-17 and the SE-25-47-18 from Linea's uncle, Lars Norman Sr. They built a new home. Later they purchased a half section of the Ewald farm, the NE-25-47-18 and the SE-36-47-18. They also bought the NW-18-48-17. In 1957 Esben disposed of his herd of Red Poll cattle and changed to Herefords. By the late 1960's this herd had increased to 132 registered animals. He was a member of the Canadian Red Poll and the Canadian Hereford Associations for many years.

Esben served for a term as a trustee on the Holden School Division Board. He was the secretary-treasurer of the Likeness Mutual Telephone Company for nineteen years. The members paid 75¢ per month for the telephone service and did their own trouble shooting and the work of repairing the lines.

In 1957 Linea returned to teaching and taught in the Bawlf Junior High School. She retired from teaching in 1974.

They rented the farm land out in 1973, retaining the use of the farm buildings. Esben worked for a year as an inspector for Supervisory Consultants of Edmonton. In 1974 they moved to Calgary where they purchased a new home, and Esben trained as a realtor and worked in that profession for three years.

Esben and Linea have four children, James, Virginia, Leslie and Howard. The children attended Likeness School until 1955 when the school was closed and they were transported to Bawlf by bus. There they completed high school. All four earned degrees at the University of Alberta.

Jim has a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. He works with Stearns-Roger Ltd. of Calgary where he is the Chief Process Engineer. He is currently the Process Co-ordinator of the Shell Jumping Pound Gas Plant. He is married to Marlene Stenvig from Eckville who has a M.Ed. from the University of Alberta. They have one son, Dana and two daughters, Trudy and Laura. They reside in Calgary.

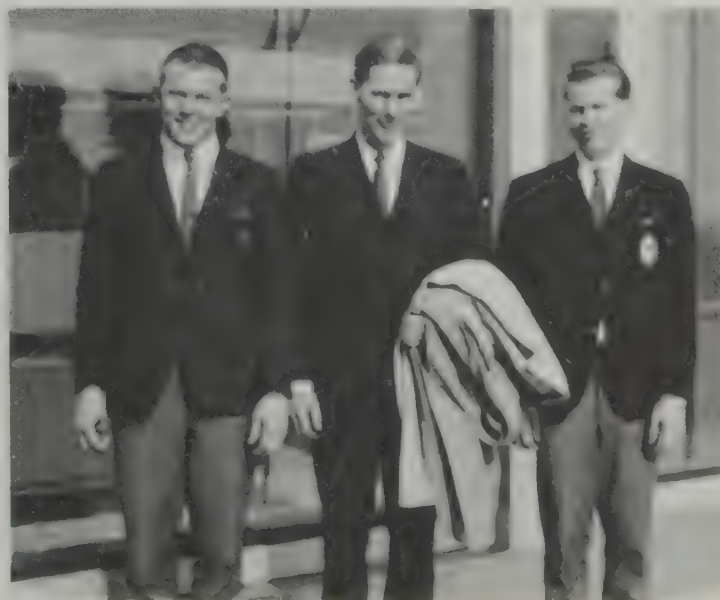
Virginia earned a B.Sc. in Home Economics and is also a teacher. She resided on a farm near Cluny with her husband, David Nelson, who graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. They live in Calgary and still farm their land in their spare time, and David works for Canadian Superior Oil and Gas. They have three daughters, Katherine, Carol and Donna.



Virginia Sorensen, 1964.

Leslie earned a Bachelor of Physical Education degree. While at the university he played on the Golden Bears football team. Upon graduation, being one of the best players on the team, he was drafted by the Montreal Alouettes, an offer which he refused. He now teaches in the Edmonton Public School system. He is married to Lorraine Rousch from Calgary who graduated as a Physiotherapist and also has a B.Ed. degree. They reside in Edmonton. They have two sons, Steven and Craig, and two daughters, Janice and Nancy.

Howard, who has a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineer-



Leslie, Jim and Howard Sorensen, 1967.

ing, resides in Calgary. He is a Consulting Petroleum Engineer associated with Signalta Resources Ltd. Howard's wife is the former Patricia McKibbin from Lacombe, a R.N. They have two daughters, Marianne and Suzanne.

Esben and Linea reside in Calgary but spend part of each summer at their farm home. On two trips to the homeland of their parents, Denmark and Sweden, they became interested in their ancestry. They found a fascinating hobby in tracing their family trees and have followed many branches back for several hundred years.

In retrospect, they reflect on the great changes they have witnessed. They grew up under primitive conditions: carrying water in and the waste water out; wood and coal in and the ashes out; frozen water pail and a cold house in the morning; outdoor plumbing; clothes washed on a washboard and hung out to freeze in winter, then carried in like so many boards to drip and dry on an indoor line; travel only with horses in winter; long walks to school carrying their lunch in a lard pail, cold in winter and fighting mosquitoes in summer.

Telephones arrived in 1917; first cars in 1917; first radios in the 1920's. High graded roads were gradually built in the 1950's permitting car travel all winter. Then came centralized schools and school buses. Esben and Linea built an insulated home in 1945. They acquired electric power in 1952 thus enabling them to have conveniences that were previously undreamed of: refrigerator, freezer, running water, sewer, central heating, automatic washer, dryer, dishwasher, television and gadgets in the kitchen, as well as countless labor savers on the farm.

Now, as they sit by a crackling fire in their fireplace, they recall the time when a big dry woodpile was a necessity, not a luxury.

Sorensen, Fred by Gerda Sorensen

Fred Sorensen was born in Denmark in 1900. He lost his parents at an early age and came to Canada with his oldest sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sorensen. They lived south of Holden in the Palmer district where Fred grew up.

After farming for a short while in the Provost area, he went back to Denmark in 1926. Here he met and married Gerda Kiertzner, who returned to Canada with him that same year in August. They lived in the Palmer-Gladstone district for three years, first on the old Sandvik place where their son Holger was born, and later on the Gus Johnson place.

In 1929 they bought a farm north of Bawlf in the Likeness district. It was known as the old Wold Place, homesteaded by Sam Wold in 1902. They



Fred and Gerda Sorensen's Silver Wedding, 1951.

moved to this farm in 1930. Swen was born that fall. In 1933 Arne was born and Gladys in 1935. To be closer to school, they moved to the G. Gross place in the fall of 1936. Harold was born here in 1938. In 1939 they moved back to their farm where Edwin and later Elsie were born. They lived three miles from school and the children had many tough trips with a team of horses in the winter time.

Fred and Gerda moved to Camrose in the spring of 1958, after selling their farm to Rudy Domes in the fall of 1957. He later sold this farm to Elmer Bruce, who still lives there. Fred was employed by the Alice Hotel in Camrose as a desk clerk for eleven years, retiring in 1969. Fred passed away in 1974. His widow, Gerda, still lives in Camrose.

Holger (Hal), is the present manager of the Merit



Standing: Arne, Harold, Sven, Edwin and Halger. Sitting: Elsie, Gerda, Fred, Gladys, 1969.

Store in Camrose. He married Irene Sollid of Bawlf. They have two children, Laurie and Larry, and one grandchild.

Swen is the manager for the Dairy Pool in Wetaskiwin. He married Marlene Fouts of Viking, and they have two sons, Arden and Garry.

Arne is the manager of Fahlman's Department Store in Camrose. He is married to Alice Hamilton, and they have one son, Randy.

Gladys, married to Asgar Nielsen of Camrose, lives on a farm near Ohaton. Their children are Annette, Robert and Brenda and they have two grandchildren.

Harold is on the Safeway staff in Wetaskiwin. He is married to Frances Wetzbacher of New Norway. Their children are Darryl and Charlene.

Edwin, also with Safeway in Wetaskiwin, is manager of the meat department. His wife is Karen Weltz of Neustd, Ontario, and they have two sons, Blaine and Darren.

Elsie married Sergeant Murray Sherwin (R.C.M.P.) of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Murray is now retired from the force and is employed by Totran Trucking of Nisku, as a safety and equipment manager. They live in Camrose and their two sons are Shane and Murray Jr.

The Sorensen boys are well known for their musical talents and often played with local dance bands.

Sorensen, Henrik Family

Maren Christensen and Soren Rasmussen were married in 1858 and lived on the family gaard (farm) near Honnum Jutland, Denmark. They raised a family of eleven children, one of whom was Karen born in 1871. Soren died in 1903 and Maren in 1924.

Karen received her education in a country school and later attended a "Danish Folk School" for young people. In about 1889 Karen moved to Dorotheasminde where she was trained in the art of butter making by Nils Sorensen who owned and operated a large dairy farm and creamery.

Nils Sorensen had married Kristine Jorgensen around 1865. They had four sons and one daughter. Kristine died in 1917 and Nils in the late 20's.

Henrik, the eldest son, was born in 1880. He attended school in Dorotheasminde and worked on his father's dairy farm. For a time he and his brother Soren also worked for an uncle who was a horse dealer. Often they would take horses south into Germany and east across to Russia. Henrik, during his youth, took his compulsory military training and he often spoke of that period as the best time of his life.

It was in Dorotheasminde that Karen Rasmussen and Henrik Sorensen met. They were married in 1904. When the co-operative creameries became established. Nils Sorensen gave up his private creamery and immigrated to Canada with three of his sons.



Hendrik Sorensen family, 1929. Standing: Astrid, Mary, Alfred, Dorothea. Seated: Hendrik and Karen.

Then Karen and Henrik took over the dairy farm. Their eldest daughter Dorothea was born in 1905, Astrid in 1907 and Mary in 1908. In the spring of 1910 Dorothea died in the hospital from blood poisoning in her ankle.

In September 1910 another daughter was born and named Dorothea in memory of her older sister.

Making a living became difficult in Denmark so Karen and Henrik turned their thoughts toward Canada where they were told, golden opportunities awaited them and consequently a brighter future for their children.

In 1911, the Sorensens immigrated to Markerville, Alberta where Henrik found employment on Dan Morkerborg's dairy farm. He also hauled freight with a four horse outfit, to and from Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer. Two years later fire completely destroyed their home and contents, a drastic blow for the newcomer family. However, the people of Markerville rallied to their assistance with clothes and other necessities. The beautiful Danish silver and linens can never be replaced.

We moved to Holden in the spring of 1913 where the Sorensens stayed with Karen's Uncle Hans Christensen, until a house became available in the Adams district. Henrik worked on the farms of Christensen and Langum.

Alfred was born there in 1913. By 1915 the Sorensens were able to start farming on their own and rented NW 20-49-16 in the Poe district. The first year a killing frost in July ruined their crop, but they had a few cows and pigs so managed. Karen made use of her skill of butter making and sold butter to special customers in town. This business she carried on for many years for her butter was always in demand.

Since there was no water on the farm Henrik had to haul water in barrels from Christensens for the stock a real hardship during those bitterly cold winters. The house was very poor with only the outside walls finished so it was an effort to keep the family warm. Perhaps it was because of the cold house that Mary was often very ill with pneumonia, pleurisy and quincy. Dr. Farrel was often out to see her and one time especially he called Henrik aside and told him that Mary would not make it but she did.

Another event which stands out in memory happened on this farm. Alfred, then three years old, was booked for surgery at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Karen flatly refused to let him go for she feared he would not come home alive; the loss of her eldest daughter in Denmark a few years before was too fresh in her mind. Compassionate Dr. Farrel then made arrangements to have Dr. Allen (surgeon) from Edmonton to come out to the farm to operate on Alfred. All went well and in order to keep Alfred

quiet for a few days Henrik had to stay in bed with him.

In 1918 Sorensens bought the NW 29-49-16 from Anton Christofferson and moved there. Much back breaking work went into clearing and breaking the land. Each member of the family helped cut brush, pile and burn it. Henrik broke much of the land with a walking breaking plow drawn by four horses. The children would walk behind to lay the furrows flat.

The winter of 1918-19 was long and cold with an unusually large amount of snow. To make matters even worse, feed was very scarce since the crops had frozen the summer before. Henrik had built straw sheds to house his cattle who became so hungry that they ate all the straw. Hay and straw bales were shipped in by rail from other parts of the country and everyday there would be long line ups of teams and hay racks at the station in Holden. Prices were exorbitant and sometimes the feed was not good. Henrik was fortunate not to lose any stock.

There was no water in the numerous hand dug wells on the farm. Mr. Huston of the Talbot district had a deep well drilling machine and was hired for the job. During the summer he drilled to a depth of 450 feet and finally struck water. The water was salty, however the cattle relished it and it could be used for the house, except for coffee. A steel windmill was erected and for the first time Henrik had ample water on his farm. The whole procedure cost \$1000, a large amount in 1919.

When Alfred finished school he worked with his dad on the farm. More land was bought SW 29-49-16 for pasture and a good herd of Red Poll cattle was built up.

For many years Henrik also had a contract with the C.N. to plow several miles of fireguard along the railroad each year.

It was a sad blow for the Sorensens when their youngest daughter Dorothea died in August, 1950. In September they left the farm to live in the house, which had been moved in earlier, on the lot adjoining T. A. Liden's residence in Holden.

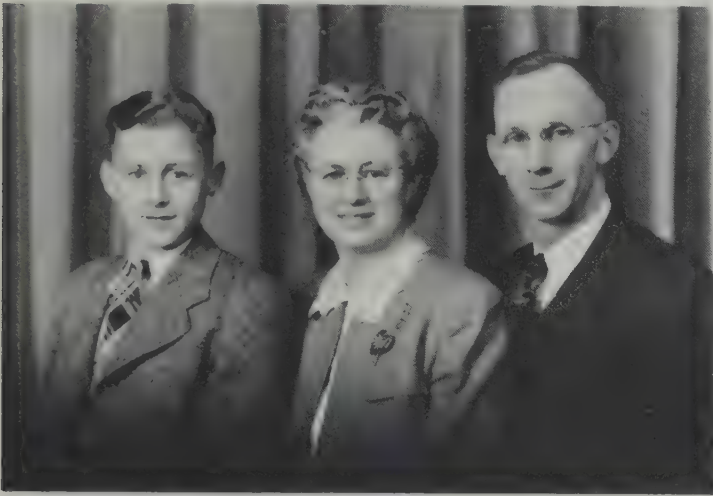
Karen and Henrik loved their new home and enjoyed attending the Lutheran Church, going to baseball games and visiting with friends. They had always had good health, but in 1953 Karen passed away suddenly in her sleep. She was buried in Holden Cemetery.

Henrik continued living in his own home and led an active life. He especially loved to go to the curling rink to watch Alfred curl. His two grandsons Gary and David, called on him almost daily as long as they were home. Henrik said that David would usually stop there at noon to see what was cooking, then he would decide whether to stay for dinner or go home.

Many hours were spent with his grandsons playing cards or chess.

In 1964 Henrik became very ill and he was rushed by ambulance to Camrose hospital but he died en route. He too, was buried in Holden Cemetery.

All those years Karen and Henrik worked very hard making use of the opportunities which came their way. They brought up their children also to persevere in spite of adversities. We their children, owe a debt of thanks and deep gratitude to our loving parents.



Milo, Astrid and John Holte, 1947.

Astrid — I started school in Adams and later went to Holden School and stayed with my Grand Uncle and Aunt Christensen. When Poe School was built in 1916 I attended there through grade nine.

Some of my pleasant memories of Poe School are the Christmas concerts, the first of which was held in the Poe Hall, which was later moved, and the school picnics. There were a few unpleasant memories too, related to the extremely long cold winters.

After completing grade nine at Poe I took high school in Viking and Ryley where I worked for my



Edna, Shelley and Lynn Holte.

board and room. In 1925 I attended Normal School in Calgary, 1926 was the year of a great surplus of new teachers and I applied for over thirty schools before I was finally accepted by Dalen S.D. near Amisk.

I taught at Dalen for four years, then married John A. Holte, a young farmer in the district, in 1930. After two years of farming John went into the grain buying business, first at Kirriemiur, then Demay and lastly Kingman in 1940 until 1958. John died in 1964 from a heart condition and was buried in Kingman Cemetery.

I taught at Kingman from 1958 until my retirement in 1973, when I moved to Camrose. A very interesting and rewarding assignment came my way in 1969 when my church sent me to Cameroon, Africa to teach for two years in an American school for Missionaries' children. I did substitute teaching until my church again sent me to a Mission Field to teach Missionaries' children, this time in Bihar, India. It was a real privilege to serve in this way.

The last two years I have taught English as a second language to refugees from Viet Nam and Laos something I have enjoyed very much. They are such delightful and appreciative people, eager to learn and happy to be in our free Canada.

We had only one son, Milo born in 1932. In 1953 he graduated from Camrose Lutheran College. He worked at airports in Wrigley, N.W.T. and Grande Prairie. In 1957 Milo married Edna Sorgaard of La Glace. They have two daughters, Shelley and Lynn. When they moved to Sherwood Park in 1967, Milo was employed at Gulf Oil Refinery. It was sad and tragic when he died in 1975 from "A Plastic Anemia" as a result of contact with a chemical in the refinery. He was buried in Kingman Cemetery beside his Dad.



Carl and Mary Erickson, 1933.

Edna, Shelley and Lynn still reside in Sherwood Park.

Mary — My childhood was rather uneventful, however one incident that comes to mind happened at the Thomas and Sorene Christensen farm home. While we were visiting there my three year old sister Dorothea fell in the well. I was five at the time, and I was the only one who saw her fall in. I ran to the house and whispered to mother, "Dorothea has fallen in the well!" For a moment no one believed me, then suddenly everyone rushed to the well. Theodore Safus (a newcomer from Denmark) slid down the rope and rescued her. She was unconscious, but some how was revived, and suffered no lasting ill effects.



Donald and Lisa Erickson, David, Susan.

Then there was the prairie fire in the fall of about 1916. This particular hot day we saw a fire in the distance creeping across the acres of dry pasture land toward our farm. Papa started to plow a fire guard around the yard, using a walking plow and horses, some of our neighbors came to help. When it seemed doubtful that our building could be saved horses were hitched to a wagon and some of our belongings were loaded. Mother and we children were ready to leave at a moment's notice. The fire guard was sufficient to hold back the flames and by night fall the men had the fire under control.

I took my elementary schooling at Poe and high school at Ryley. In the fall of 1927 I started nurses training at the General Hospital, Edmonton. I gradu-

ated with my R.N. degree in 1931. Then I nursed for a year at Alberta Hospital, Ponoka, taking a post graduate course in Psychiatry. Then came home to help Mother and Dad on the farm a bit. At the same time I did considerable home nursing around Holden, Ryley and Tofield. These were hard times 1932-33 so my wages were only one dollar per day (24 hr. duty) plus room and board.

In 1933 Carl Erickson of Tofield and I were married. We lived on the Erickson farm, five miles west of Ryley, for many years. We were blessed with two children, Donald born in 1936 and our chosen daughter, Marion born in 1943.

When the Tofield Hospital was built I resumed my nursing career there on a part time basis.

In 1953 we were saddened by the tragic death of Carl, after a short illness due to an undetermined infection caused by the bite of a mad pig. He is buried in the Ryley Cemetery. Donald, then only 16, with the help of my nephew Milo Holte carried on the work on the farm that fall. I returned to nursing which included a year with the Vegreville Health Unit at Holden. We moved to Camrose in 1957, where I nursed at the Smith Clinic for six years.

Donald graduated as an electrician in 1962. He is now employed at the Strathcona Esso Oil Refinery in Edmonton. In 1975 he married Lisa Christianson from Copenhagen, Denmark. They have two children, David and Susan. They make their home in Edmonton.



Roy and Marion, Trevor, Michael and Shawn Daley.

Marion took a business course at McTavish College, Edmonton. She worked several years for the Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. at Calgary. In 1962 Marion married Raymond Daley of Camrose. They have three sons Trevor, Michael and Shaun. They live in Calgary, where Ray is a heavy duty mechanic for the City of Calgary.

In 1963 I began nursing at the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital, Camrose, and in 1965 I became its Director of Nursing, a position I held until my retirement in 1974. I am enjoying my retirement living at Camrose, and I am kept busy doing volunteer work.

Dorothea

Dorothea attended Poe School and later Ryley High School where she graduated in 1930. She received her teacher's training at Camrose Normal School 1930-31. Then she taught at Longridge where she boarded with the Crimmins and Loneys until 1936. Palmer was her next school and there she boarded with the Sam Johnsons.

In 1937 she was married to Lyle Grosland and



Dorothea Sorensen, 1931.

moved to his farm where their only son, Grant was born.

Dorothea became ill in 1950 and had major surgery in February and what a tragic shock to all of us to learn that it was cancer! After many treatments and much suffering she died in August of the same year, leaving many broken hearts behind. She was buried in Holden Cemetery.

Dorothea with her big brown eyes was always a loving girl and had many friends. She was especially considerate of our parents and to this day we miss her.

Sorensen, Peter and Family

by S. E. (Stan) Sorensen

Jens Peter Sorensen was born in 1882 at Lynge, Feltskov, Soro Amt, Denmark. His father, Soren Jorgen Sorensen, was a master blacksmith and



Peter Sorensen.



Kathrine Sorensen.

wheelwright. At an early age Peter moved with his parents to Stockholt where he received his education. He was confirmed in 1896 at Bjernede Church, one of four round churches in Denmark. From fourteen to nineteen years of age he worked as an apprentice in a grocery store.

In 1902 Peter, then twenty years of age, and his older brother Chris left Denmark for the United States, arriving in Chicago in April. Peter's first job, which lasted only ten days, was in a glove factory. During the summer of 1902 he spent four months digging ditches for water and sewer systems in Racine, Wisconsin. For the next two years he worked in a hotel in Chicago, a lumber mill in Spokane, Washington, a logging camp in Idaho, and a farm job or two besides being hungry and out of work at times.

While in Montana in the early spring of 1905, Peter was told that he could travel for one cent per mile on the railway in Canada. He decided to go to Calgary, Northwest Territories, to see the place. However, when he wanted to buy a return ticket, the agent informed him that the fare was three cents per mile going south. Being short of funds he purchased a ticket to Wetaskiwin, as far north as his money would take him. There he met and went home with Peter Nelson who with is family was homesteading ten miles northeast of Bruce.

In 1905 at Vegreville, Peter filed on the NW-22-49-14 which is eight miles northeast of Bruce. To obtain the fee required to file on a homestead he had requested the loan of ten dollars from his brother Chris, in Chicago, who sent fifteen dollars, making Peter feel well off.

Peter built a log shack with a sod roof and a dirt floor, with a total cash outlay of 35¢ for a window. During the three years that it took to prove up the homestead, in addition to breaking the required number of acres on his own land, he did custom breaking. He also broke several road allowances in the area. He drove four oxen and used a wooden beam breaking

Dr. Ebba Sorensen, 1939.



plow. At that time, the land was mostly treeless due to prairie fires in the area.

Each fall Peter would work on the Peter Nelson threshing outfit (all stack threshing). The power to drive the machine was supplied by ten head of horses, five teams walking in a circle. In the autumn of 1905 they threshed a twenty-five acre field of barley on the site of the old Royal Bank in Holden. In 1907 Nelson bought a new steam engine for power. Nelson's son drove the steamer when moving. He would disconnect the governor, open up the throttle and really make time crossing the prairie.

Peter's homesteading days included the long hard winter of 1906-7. He used to tell about the hardships suffered by some of the people. The snow trails were built up in places to a depth of three to four feet, and to get off the trail with a sleigh was to tip over. Those trails were still there in June after the rest of the snow was gone, white lines across the prairie. One summer a prairie fire came out of the northwest and destroyed Peter's shack and hay stacks. It travelled as fast as a horse could run. He told of hunting ducks, rabbits and prairie chickens with an old muzzle loader. If he loaded the gun extra heavily the recoil of the gun could knock him down, so he would have to lie down and hold the gun against a rock when shooting. The Kunish, Ingram and Turner families lived west of him. Wes Stambaugh (later a senator) was also in the area.

In the fall of 1908, after obtaining the deed to his homestead, Peter sold the land and bought a livery business in Holden in partnership with Paddy O'Doherty. It was named "Holden Livery, Feed and Sales, Stables Proprietors: O'Doherty and Sorensen". Peter was also a cattle buyer.

After three years in the livery business, in the fall of 1911, Peter and Paddy traded that business for the Lars Johnson farm in the Palmer district southwest of Holden, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ -36-47-17. Paddy assumed ownership of the NE quarter and Peter the NW quarter with buildings, a well and thirty five acres cultivated.

OWNER
MOTOR VEHICLE

ALBERTA
LICENSE
No. 13951

Issued to: Peter Sorensen
Address: 1917
Name of Manufacturer: 1917
Factory No. 572003 No. of H.P. 22.5
Motive Power: Gasoline
Edmonton JUN 12 1917
Deputy Provincial Secretary: [Signature]

Countersigned

Owner License.

After an absence of ten years Peter returned to Denmark at Christmas time, 1911, to visit relatives and the girl he had left behind, Kathrine Sorensen. They had carried on a correspondence during the long interval.

Kathrine Kirstine Sorensen was born in 1879 at Manstrup, Bejstrup, Denmark. Her parents were Carl Christian Sorensen, a mason (builder in brick and stone), and Maren Christine (Madsen) Sorensen, a midwife by profession. During Peter's absence Kathrine had acquired a store in Horsens where she sold ladies' and children's clothing. Tragedy had struck the family when their father passed away in 1906 and their mother in 1910. Being the eldest of eleven children, Kathrine assumed the care of the two youngest, Ester, born in 1898, and Frederik, born in 1900.

Peter and Katherine were married in Chicago in 1912. Fred had accompanied them from Denmark and later farmed in the Holden and Bawlf areas. Ester followed her sister to Holden in 1913 and later married Laurits Jacobson. She is presently residing at North Star, Alberta and is Mrs. Otto Gummesen.

What a change for Kathrine from city living to a farm in the wilderness. Since neither she nor Peter had been raised on a farm they found the work much more difficult. Despite this handicap, with hard work and good business management they made a success of farming. They soon acquired more land: the SE-35-47-17 and the SW-1-48-18. They were now on their way to becoming landed gentry like some of their ancestors.

Three children were born to Peter and Kathrine: Soren Esben in 1912, Ebba in 1914, and Carl Christian in 1915.

Peter spent many years as a trustee on the Palmer School board. In 1921 Peter, Hans Huseby and Frank Weir were elected to the first drainage board in Alberta, Holden Drainage District No. 1. Kathrine took part in Red Cross work and was a member of the local

Ladies' Aid. They also took part in the Holden Danish Lutheran Church meetings with Pastor P. Rasmussen from Wayne, Alberta presiding.

In 1926, accompanied by their children, they returned to Denmark for a three months' visit which was greatly enjoyed by the whole family.

During the next two years they acquired more land; the NE-22-49-16 one mile northwest of Holden, and the N½-22-49-14 which included Peter's original homestead.

In January and February of 1928 a well known author from Denmark, Aksel Sandemose, spent six weeks with the Sorensens. Peter, a good story teller, related many of his experiences over the years since he had left Denmark. Mr. Sandemose must have made notes each evening of what he had heard for when he returned to Denmark he composed a book "Ross Dane" in which Peter is the hero, Ross Dane. It is a story about pioneering, including a romance, and many of the incidents and people in the Palmer and Holden areas can be recognized.

The Great Depression began in October 1929 with the prices of farm products falling until, in 1932, the prices of the best grades of grain per bushel were as follows: wheat 18¢, barley 7¢ and oats 4¢.

During the 1930's the Sorensens farmed up to seven quarters of land, with 600 acres cultivated using horse power almost entirely. They put in long days, from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days a week doing field work, each man driving six to eight horses.

In 1931 Peter bought his first registered Red Poll cattle, two heifers and a bull, from Tom Howes at Millet. This proved to be a good investment. By the early 1940's he had one of the best Red Poll herds in Alberta. He was a member of the Canadian Red Poll Association for many years.

From the time Carl and Esben left public school until they started farming on their own they were paid going wages for farm workers. In 1939 Peter and Kathrine gave Esben the NE-22-49-16, and Carl the N½-22-49-14.

Ebba continued her education and in 1939 graduated as a Medical Doctor from the University of Alberta. After interning one year in Victoria, she practised medicine with Dr. MacPherson in Ryley.

Esben married Linea Norman, (see Esben's story).

Carl married Ruby Meadahl in 1946, (see Carl's story).

Early in 1948 Kathrine passed away, and Ebba died in 1951 after a lengthy illness.

Peter lived in his home and still drove his car until 1967, when he lost his life in a fire that destroyed his house on the farm. He had reached the age of eighty five years.

Peter and Kathrine were good parents and good people who did their best.

Sorgen, Hartvig and Lila

Hartvig Sorgen and I, Lila McGuire were married in Edmonton in 1931 by Rev. M. L. Wright at their home. Hartvig had purchased the pool room and barber shop in 1929 from Charles Follinsbee. We lived in Hartvig's grandmother's house next door to



Old Drug Store on corner, 1929. Mr. Zerber (jeweller), Lila Sorgen and E. J. Williams (Druggist).

Bob Emond's, until we built our new house in 1937, next to the Catholic Church. Hartvig was master of the Masonic Lodge for two years. I went to Edmonton and took a course in hairdressing, and Hartvig made me a beauty parlour in the corner of his pool



Webb family and Hartvig Sorgen.

room. We sold our business in 1940 on account of Hartvig's health. We went to Prince Rupert for a few months. My brother Bev who was in the Navy, was being transferred from Prince Rupert, so we lived in his apartment.

There was calls over the radio for fruit pickers in the Okanagan, so we decided to go to Kelowna, where we have made our home ever since.

Hartvig passed away in 1981. I expect to continue to live here in our home as long as my health permits.

Sorgen, Hubert and Violet

We, Hubert and Violet Sorgen, were married in 1933 and started life together on Hubert's parents' farm. After five years we got some land of our own. Hubert moved a small building onto the land and then added on to it. This was our first home and we were so happy there. We had two children when we moved there and soon had another little girl. That winter Hubert built a log barn where we kept the chickens and cows the first winter. In the spring Hubert built a small chicken house, fenced the pasture and had some land broke. Soon Hannah, Sanford and Vivian



The Hubert Sorgen family.

had a little brother whom we named Ralph. We sold the farm and moved to the Augustine place. We had one cow who needed to be milked three times a day. This was my job at noon, she waited impatiently until I finally left all the many things I had to do — so out I went. I was sorry to see her traded for two horses, as we never had one like her again. When Sadie was born the ladies had a shower for us, I'll always remember them. Later we had Orvis, Duane and Gerald.

Orvis and Ralph became carpenters, Duane and Gerald ran "cats". Now Orvis and Gerald raise Arabian horses and Ralph and his wife have a Donut Shop in Grande Prairie. Hannah Elgert is in B.C. Her husband is in lumber. Vivian Goodwin married a salesman. Carol and family live in Valleyview. We have thirty grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Hubert and I keep busy with a big garden in Wanham.

Sorgen, Ole P. and Family

by Kenneth Sorgen

Ole P. Sorgen was born in 1861 in Norway. He came with his parents to Davis, Illinois at the age of eighteen months. In 1871 they moved to Hayward, Minnesota where he grew to manhood. He and a brother operated a store at Albert Lea for a short while. In 1888, he was united in marriage to Hannah Fodness.

Hannah's parents left Norway in 1855 for America by sailboat, a trip that took eleven weeks. They landed at Quebec, Canada, from there they went to Albert Lea, Minnesota, where Hannah was born in 1869. In 1890 they moved on to a homestead at Presho, South Dakota, where they lived until 1909. Mother's brother, Carl Fodness, and his mother had come to Canada in 1905, where Carl filed on a homestead (SE-12-49-17). This seemed to be much better land than where they lived in South Dakota, so Carl encouraged my parents to come to Canada. In March 1909 they sold the land, loaded the machinery and livestock on a freight car and moved to Alberta. Some of the things they were not sorry to leave behind were the hot summer days, rattlesnakes and the threat of tornados. At that time, Carl had only a small shack on his place, and the Sorgens arrived with eleven children, so they rented a house from Mr. Fred Eder. This was on the NW-30-48-16. The following year they rented the NW-36-47-17 from Lars Johnson where they lived until 1912, when Dad bought the SE-36-47-17 from Daniel Laboucane. This was their home until 1946 when Mr. and Mrs. Sorgen retired to Holden. They raised a family of twelve children, six sons and six daughters and when they were all grown up, my parents adopted another son. Although we did not experience some of the hardships of the earlier pioneers, we did have some trying times. The long cold winter of 1919-20 created many problems, both physically and financially, due to the shortage of feed for the livestock, and who could forget the "thirties" — the depression? You had to do with what you had, or do without.

We had an organ and several musical instruments in our home and most of the members of the family learned to play most of them. We often played for various functions in Holden and the area. Opal was organist in many of the churches in the different places where she and her family lived.

Mother and Dad lived to a good old age and were blessed with many grandchildren. Dad passed away in 1948 at the age of 87, and Mother in 1956, also at the age of 87.

Clarence was born in 1889, in Hayward, Minnesota. He learned the trade of a barber, while living at Presho, South Dakota. He also worked in Holden,



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sorgen on their Fiftieth Anniversary 1938.



The Sorgen family: Hubert, Philip, Sanford, Hartvig, Agnes, Emma, Myrtle, Opal, Robert. Seated: Clarence, Mr. and Mrs. O. Sorgen, Amanda. Missing: Cora — 1938.

Alberta; Unity, Saskatchewan; Wainwright, Alberta; New Westminster, B.C.; and finally at Everett, Washington. While in Unity, Saskatchewan, he married Tressa Leeson. Clarence played the violin and trombone, and enjoyed playing in bands and orchestras. His hobby was photography and he won many prizes with his entries. His wife, Tressa, still carries on this hobby. Clarence passed away in 1977. They had one son, Weldon.

Amanda Elvine Coates was born in 1891 at Presho. In 1913 she married John Robert Coates from Trowbridge, Ontario. John at that time was a member of the R.N.W.M.P. and was stationed at Athabasca. A short while later they moved to Ontario where they farmed. Later they moved back to Alberta and settled near Bruce. In 1926 they moved to Vegreville where



Dorothy, Angus, Clifford and Amanda Coates.

Jack worked in a hotel. In 1931 they purchased a quarter south of Holden, where they lived until Jack's passing in 1938. After his death Amanda left the farm and worked at the telephone office in Chauvin and Holden. She retired to Armstrong, B.C. and passed away in 1976. They have three children, Angus, Dorothy and Clifford. Angus married Helena Nohr (see the Nohr story). Dorothy is married to Elmer Clifton and lives in Edgewood, B.C. She had two sons, William and Douglas. Clifford moved to Canoe, B.C. He married and had a family of five children. He passed away in 1982.

Hubert Goodwin Sorgen — born at Presho in 1892. (See Hubert Sorgen story.)

Cora was born in 1894 in Presho. She married Noah Meister in 1914. They homesteaded at Athabasca Landing, Alberta. In 1915 they moved to Oklahoma where they farmed until they retired to Peoria, Illinois where he later died. Cora passed away in 1981. They had five children, Hazel, Melvin, Clarence, Gladys and Benjamin.

Phillip was born in 1896 at Presho, South Dakota. He lived at home with his parents until 1918, when he was called back to the United States to be inducted into the Army. In the meantime, Armistice was declared and consequently he did not see active service. He returned to Holden in 1920. Phillip worked at various jobs until 1930 when he moved into Holden where he worked with his brother, Hartvig, who owned the pool hall and barber shop. In 1936 he purchased the NE-2-48-17, where he farmed until his passing in 1975. He was unmarried.

Oliver Hartvig was born in 1898, in Presho, South Dakota. Hartvig was the second one of the family to become a barber. (See Oliver Hartvig Sorgen story.)

Myrtle was born in 1900 at Presho, South Dakota. (See Jack Goodwin story.)

Emma Johanna Aldridge — was born in 1903 at Presho. Emma was a telephone operator. She married Athelstan Arnold Aldridge. (The history of the Aldridge family will be found under Aldridge.)

Agnes was born in 1905 at Presho. Agnes became a telephone operator in Holden, following the marriage of her sister, Emma, in 1925. In 1930 she was united in marriage to Pastor Clarence Irving Klewer. He served pastorates at Medicine Hat, Edmonton and Litchfield, Illinois. He passed away in 1961. They had two children, Donald and Kenneth. Kenneth passed away in infancy. After her husband's death, Agnes went to live with her son for a time. A short while later, she moved to Everett, Washington, where she still resides.



Pastor and Mrs. Sanford Sorgen with their sons, wives and grandchildren.

Sanford was born in 1907 at Presho. Sanford attended school at Palmer, Holden and Camrose Lutheran College. While at the College, he decided to become a pastor. He studied at Concordia College at Moorhead, Minnesota, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, graduating in 1934. He served parishes at Lake Alma, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska. He married Vilgard Daehlin, a teacher. They have three sons, Irving, Daniel and Stephen.

Opal was born in 1910 at Presho and attended school at Palmer, Holden and the Camrose Normal School. She taught near Vegreville and the Oak Park School, north of Bawlf. In 1935, she married Emil Bergum. They moved to Fairy Glen, Saskatchewan, where Emil owned and operated a garage. They sold out there, and went to Outlook, Saskatchewan, to the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, where Emil became the maintenance man and Opal worked in the library. She also operated the Correspondence Sun-



The Emil Bergum family. Back Row: Herbert, Carol, Lois. Front Row: Emil and Opal.

day School from the College. They had three children, Herbert, Carol and Lois. Opal passed away in 1969 and Herbert, their son, died shortly afterwards. Emil lives with Carol and her husband, Larry Jasper-son at Tilley, Alberta.

Eugene Kenneth was born in 1911, at Holden. I am the youngest member of the family and the only one born in Canada, I attended school at Palmer, Holden and Camrose Lutheran College. In 1942 I took a machinist course and worked one summer in Montreal in a propeller factory. The rest of my time was spent on the farm. In 1946, I married Hildur Andrietta Erickson, at New Westminster, B.C. We returned to Holden and made our home on my parents' old farm. In 1947 I purchased the NW¼-31-47-16 from the C.P.R. and continued to break land and farm until 1967 when we sold and moved to Camrose. Hildur's hobby was landscaping, gardening and growing flowers. She seemed to have a green thumb, as everything she planted, grew. In 1948, we were blessed with a daughter, Lois. She



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sorgen and Lois.

attended Bawlf School, received her R.N. from the University hospital in Edmonton and her B.Sc. from the University of Alberta. In 1978, she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Master's degree in Continuing Education. She is now coordinator of Home Nursing Care for the Northeastern Alberta Health Unit at St. Paul, Alberta.

After moving to Camrose, I worked seven years in the maintenance department at Camrose Lutheran College and the rest of the time at construction. I am now semi-retired and my hobby is woodcraft.



Robert Sorgen.

Robert was born in 1927. Bob came into our home at the age of nine months. He was a very lively and likeable infant and brought much joy to our parents. He soon won his way into the hearts of the whole family. He attended school at Palmer and was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church. After leaving school he worked at a variety of jobs. He bought a truck and did some trucking for a while. He drove a school bus, and later became our rural mail carrier. In the spring of 1953 he was operating a road grader for the county, and while crossing the railway was struck by a train and killed instantly. This was a tragic shock to the family and all who knew him. He was twenty-seven years of age and was engaged to be married that summer to Nora Rugland, who was teaching at Palmer School at the time. He is buried in the Holden Cemetery beside his parents.

Sroka, Anton family

Anton Sroka together with his parents immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1903. His future wife Tekla, also from Poland, came to Canada with relatives in the same year. Anton worked with a road gang whose work included blasting rock in preparation for the first railway in the Wetaskiwin area. Tekla worked as a maid in the Strathcona Hotel. Anton then took a homestead in the Kopernick district and Tekla and he decided to marry. They travelled by horses and wagon to a church at Duhamel, a little community southwest of Camrose to obtain the

services of a priest. Upon arriving there they learned to their dismay that the priest being German, though he understood a bit of Polish, did not speak it. However with the aid of a translating book the ceremony was performed and husband and wife were soon homeward bound.

The trials and hardships of homesteading and raising a family of eight during the depression were many and took their toll. Two girls died in early childhood. One suffered from diphtheria, the other a ruptured appendix. The services of a doctor were of no help in either case.

The remaining family consisted of five sons and one daughter. They were Sam, Joe, Mike, Victor, Louie and Nellie.

Victor and Louie served in the army and both were sent overseas to Holland, Germany and Italy. Mike served as a military police in the navy for the duration of the war. After returning home from the services Mike married Julia Casha and shortly after they moved to Vancouver where Mike was employed in a lumber yard handling imported hardwood, Victor went to Renfrew, Ontario where he had met a girl before going overseas. He married Betty and they made Renfrew their home where Victor worked for Ontario Hydro. Louie went to Vancouver and met Dorothy. They were married and made Vancouver their home where Louie is in the construction business.

Joe married Ann Balko in 1941 and settled one mile west of Holden where they farmed until their retirement in 1977. Nellie married Lawrence Kaluzny of Bruce in 1946.

Sam farmed the family farm with his parents. In 1953 Mr. and Mrs. Sroka retired from farming and purchased the former Mrs. Olson house. In 1954 Anton passed away. Mrs. Sroka lived alone for many years. She was an active church member and grew beautiful flowers and loved gardening. Her home was always open to family and friends.

Sam left the farm some years after his parents retirement. He worked for Zeidlers Plywood in Edmonton for fifteen years. Upon his retirement he moved to Holden in 1975 to live with his mother. Sam passed away in January, 1978. Mrs. Sroka lived in her home until the time of her passing in 1978. She was 93.

Staal, Carl and Arlene

Nissen Carl Staal was born in 1938, in Camrose, Alberta. Carl is the oldest son of Pete and Gladys Staal of the Daresbury district (Camrose South).

Arlene Muriel Rosland was born in 1940. Arlene is the oldest daughter of Torger and Melva Rosland of Dinant (Camrose North).



Staal family. Back Row: Kevin, Steven, Wayne, Carl. Front Row: Arlene, Colleen.

Carl and Arlene were married in 1960 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, north of Dinant. They have four children. Kevin Nissen, born in 1961 at Camrose, is working in Camrose as an apprentice auto body man. Wayne Torger was born in 1962 at Camrose. He is working in Camrose as an apprentice electrician. Both boys live in Camrose. Steven Carl was born in 1966 at Camrose, and is attending school at Ryley. Colleen Marie Burnette was born in 1970, at Camrose, and is also attending school at Ryley.

Carl worked with construction for several years and was self employed for three years with a roto-tiller. In 1972 they bought the Angus Waterston farm at near Camrose (S.W. ¼-24-46-20-W4). In 1979 Carl and Arleen sold their farm at Camrose and bought a farm (N.E. ¼-34-47-17-W4) from George Graden, formerly owned by Mike Chrystian.

Stackhouse, William and Annie

Bill Stackhouse and his wife Annie were born in 1884 and 1881 respectively. They were married in New Brunswick and moved to Edmonton in 1908, then homesteaded in the Tofield district. Ten years later they sold and moved to Holden district on the half section directly west of the Wohl farm, where they farmed till the spring of 1923, then moved back to Edmonton.

Their children, Gertrude born in 1909, Helen born in 1910, Kathleen 1914 and Harold born in 1916, completed their education in Edmonton, and were employed there and later married. Gertrude married Minor Wohl who died in 1957; Helen married Edward Deakin of Edmonton who died in 1980; Kathleen married lawyer John N. McDonald of Edmonton, who died in Victoria where they had moved in the fifties. Harold married Dorothy Huget; was em-

ployed by the Royal Bank so moved around the province, being at Pincher Creek, Three Hills, Brooks and back to Edmonton; is now retired, in Edmonton.

Gertrude has two sons, Bob in Calgary, and Jim in Edmonton. Helen has a son Doug in Calgary and daughter Gail Lonsberry in Jasper, both with families.

Kay lives in Victoria and has a son John also there, and a daughter Linda, in Vancouver.

Harold and Dorothy have a son, Brian in Red Deer; a daughter Sheila married and living in Perth, Australia; and daughters Lorna Godin at Onoway and Karen Rosborough in Edmonton.

Stambaugh, John Edgar (Jack)

Jack Stambaugh was born at Bruce, Alberta in 1922, the youngest of five children born to the late Senator and Mrs. J. W. Stambaugh.

Jack received his education at Bruce and on completing high school commenced working with his father. In 1945 Jack and his brother established Stambaugh Brothers. They carried a complete line of farm machinery, trucks, lumber and building supplies. Jack took over the Imperial Oil Agency from his father and also began farming the N½ 20-48-14.

In 1953 Jack was united in marriage to Agnes Nowodworski of Ryley and in 1955 they were blessed with a son Kevin.

In 1960 Jack took on the management of the Imperial Oil Agency at Holden and in 1961 purchased the adjoining service station.

Construction of a home in Holden commenced in early summer 1965 and Jack and Agnes took up residence in the fall.

In 1968 Agnes began employment as secretary at the Holden School, and held the position until June, 1972.

The service station was destroyed by fire in 1972. Two months later Jack and Agnes moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where they leased an Imperial Oil service station. In the spring of 1973 Jack and Kevin began reconstruction of the service station at Holden and on its completion in the fall, Jack and Agnes returned to Holden where they continue to reside.

Jack has served as president of Holden Chamber of Commerce, and on the village council.

Jack and Agnes enjoy semi-retirement at their cottage during the summer months where they fish and relax.

Kevin has taken over the management of the oil agency and service station. In 1974 he was married to Darleen Halabut of Holden. They have three children, Ryan and twins Kristen and Travis.

Starky, Beauchamp Bayntun

I was born in 1895 in Hawarden, Iowa. I came to Edmonton in 1914 and later that same year took a homestead in Saskatchewan, near Lloydminster. Although I was raised in the city (I attended high school in Seattle, Washington), I had always dreamed of farming and read widely on that subject throughout my youth. In 1917 I moved to a half section of land northeast of Bruce where I learned how to deal with temperamental oxen. This half section was probably owned by a man named Carlson and I received it as a gift from my stepfather, John Doctor, who traded his house in Seattle for it and did not get the best of the deal. In 1924 I married Myrtle Lund who was born and raised on a farm north of Bruce and in 1925 we moved to Sec. 32-49-14 which has always been referred to as the "home" place. In 1949 I purchased a quarter section N.W. 36-48-14 near Bruce and built a new house there, but we still retained the original section. We continued to expand our farming operation through the years.

In 1961 I bought a ranch south of Cawston, B.C. and my son Bud took over the farm here. My wife



Bea, Bud, Myrtle (holding Brian), Beauchamp Starky.

Myrtle died in 1973, and in the spring of 1974, I purchased a farm north of Holden (N.W. 32-49-15) which my son Bud also farmed. Bud was killed in a riding accident in September, 1980. His wife Jean and daughter Sheena still retain the original Starky land. In November, 1980 I moved to Holden and the following spring sold my farm. I purchased a house built by Helen and Henry Tiedemann which was sold after Henry's death.

Myrtle and I had five children. Our first daughter, Blanche died at the age of one month in 1925. A second daughter, Verna, who was Bud's twin, died in 1928 at the age of three weeks. My daughter Beatrice Fredericks and her husband Grant live at Bruce where Grant is co-owner of the Bruce Hardware. Beatrice has taught at the Holden High School since 1966. My son Brian and his wife Jill live at Cawston, B.C. with their sons Jackson and Benjamin. Beatrice and Grant had three children. The eldest, Inez, married Marvin Dewart and with children Krista and Kent live at Sherwood Park. Marvin is an electrician and Inez a grade one teacher. Beatrice's and Grant's second son Ivan, passed away in 1956 at the age of five. Their younger son Mark and his wife Kelley live at Hinton where Mark works as a coal resource technologist for Cardinal River Coal.

Editor's note: Mr. Starky passed away in November, 1982.

Stasko, Bartholemew

Bartholemew and Jessie Stasko along with their five children Julie, Lena, Annie, Martin and Frank, immigrated from Poland to Canada in 1903. Julie, the eldest, stayed in Edmonton where she had a housekeeping job. The other four children came with their parents to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Tomasheski, which was located about eight miles south of Holden. The Staskos lived with the Tomasheskis until they could get a homestead and build their own house. The Tomasheski's three children, and the four Stasko children, along with four adults, all lived in a one room house for about a year. In 1904 Bartholemew got his own homestead N.W.-28-47-16. He built a two room log house with a straw roof, and the family was very happy to have a home of their own. They lived there for about six months when a fire de-



Bartholomew and Jessie Stasko.

stroyed the house and all that was saved was the clothing they had on their backs. (The cow that was kept in the next room perished in the fire.) The Stasko family owe their lives to a priest who was on his way to Round Hill. He saw the fire and woke the family. The Tomasheskis were kind enough to take the Staskos in until another house was built nine months later. The Stasko family lived on their homestead for about twelve years. Here two sons were born, Joe and Peter. In 1915 Bartholemew sold the homestead to the Koetke family and then moved to a farm in the Polska district, S.W.-6-47-16.

Bartholemew passed away at the age of 73 years. Jessie, his wife, passed away at the age of 52 years. They had eleven children and fifty-five grandchildren.

Julie, oldest daughter, married Joe Zack and lived on a farm in the Daysland area. They had fourteen children. Julie died in her late 40's.

Joe Stasko worked in the Camrose hospital for many years and was never married. He died at the age of 43.

Annie Stasko married August Szott and had a family of sixteen, eight boys and eight girls. They farmed in the Daysland area.

Mary married Jess Robertson and lived in Calgary until her passing at the age of 68 years in 1982.

Lena married Peter Shamley and had six children. Peter worked for C.P.R. and they lived in various places in Alberta. Their last home was Leduc where Lena died at the age of 87.

Martin married Mary Bowal and had three children. He farmed near Round Hill for many years and is now retired in Camrose.

Peter married Marion Jasckey and they had three children. He operated the Strome Feed Mill for years and has recently retired. Peter and Marion continue to make their home there.

Steve married Gladys Sleen and they had two children. He worked at the Camrose Creamery for about 35 years and Gladys worked at the Camrose hospital. They continue to make their home in Camrose.

Minnie married George Poeckens of Camrose and had two children. Minnie worked at the Camrose hospital for over 25 years but has now retired and is living in Camrose. George passed away in 1980.

Nancy was the youngest of the family and also worked in the Camrose hospital. She married Frank Grabowski and they had two children. Nancy lives in Calgary.

Stasko, Frank

Frank Stasko left home as a very young boy and worked as a chore boy for Mr. Afseth in the Holden

area for nine months. He then got a job with a Mr. Courtney near Holden and worked there for many years. He attended the Sandstorm School. For three years he worked for a drainage ditch company. He then rented land in the Daysland area that he farmed for another three years.



50th Wedding Anniversary of Frank and Nellie Stasko.

In 1921 he married Nellie Gnus. In 1924 they bought a quarter of land in the Gladstone area where they farmed for seventeen years. Their children attend the Gladstone School. In 1941 Nellie and Frank, along with their six children, moved to the Bruce area to farm. Here the children attended Torlea School and some of them also attended the school in Bruce. Nellie always had a large garden. She also raised ducks, geese, chickens, cows and horses.

Frank loved his dogs and cats and always had a couple at his side. In 1967 they moved to Holden to retire. Frank died in 1974 at the age of 79 years and is buried in the Bruce Cemetery. Nellie continues to reside in Holden.

Katie, the eldest, married Stanley Bracha and they farmed in the Bruce area. They have two children and have now retired, and live on the farm.

Annie married Rudy Koppel and they also farmed near Bruce. For the last twenty five years they have operated the General Store in Bruce. They have six children.

John married Dewella Klein and is farming the "old home place" and also works for the C.N.R. They have seven children.

Rosie married John Safranka and farmed in the Bruce area for many years. They now reside on an acreage at Two Hills where John works for the C.N.R. They have seven children.

Jenny married Len Hellagerson and lives in Camrose. Jenny worked at Safeway for many years and now works part-time at one of the schools. She has four children.

Frances, has been living in Calgary for many years and has one child.

Sam, the youngest, lives with his mother in Holden.

Nellie is still active with the Senior Citizen's Club and various church functions.

Stecyk, John Family

by Helen Stecyk

John Stecyk was born in Austria in 1896. When he was four years old his parents, Mike and Nancy (nee Pidborozny), four brothers and one sister immigrated to Canada. They settled on a place two miles south of Mundare where they lived for a few years. From here the family moved to the Kopernick district. In 1915 John bought a half a quarter of land and built a two room house. In later years he sold these 80 acres to Mr. Marko.



Katie and John Stecyk.

In 1918, he married Katherine Stayura, from the Daysland district. She was born in 1895, and came to Canada in 1904 with her parents, Mike and Annie (nee Myluta) Stayura with three brothers and four sisters. She attended Willow School and went up to grade four. John and Katie both went to the same church and that is where they met.

John and Katie had four children, Stella, William, Frank and Marie. They lived at their homestead in Kopernick for eight and a half years. John was one of the trustees on the Unity School board, and also a member of the church and hall committees in Kopernick. From here they moved to a farm south of Bruce and lived there ten years, then moved to his brothers farm in Kopernick for two years. He decided to look for land and in 1938 bought two quarters, two and a half miles southwest of Holden from the Moore family. Their closest neighbors were the Art Storys and Harry Komarniskys. When the Ukrainian Church was being built, John helped out a lot with the work. They farmed here until their retirement in 1963, when their son William, took over the grain farming. He was married to Helen Mielimaka. (see William Stecyk History).

Their son, Frank, farmed with them until 1947, when he started to work in the Holden Creamery, as a butter maker. While working in Holden he won



Bill, Marie, Frank, Katie and Stella Stecyk.

awards for making the best first grade butter in Alberta. The creamery also won first in the Brandon, Manitoba Exhibition and the Canadian National Exhibition. In 1976 he was transferred to the creamery in Vermilion, and then four years later to the Vegreville Creamery where he is still employed.

Their daughter Stella worked with them on the farm until she married Mike Mazeppa of Evansburg,

Alberta in the fall of 1952. They farm there and have raised two sons Allan and Kenny.

Their youngest daughter, Marie, attended Talbot School then later, Holden. She went to grade nine but didn't finish due to illness. Later she went to Camrose College and graduated as a secretary. She worked in the Holden Royal Bank for some years, then moved to Vancouver. In 1949, she married Albert Treble and moved to Watrous, Saskatchewan, where they farmed. In 1966, Marie passed away due to illness.

Katherine passed away in 1967 at the age of 71, due to a heart attack. John moved into the village of Holden, with his son, Frank, in the fall of 1967. In 1974 he went to live at Vialta Lodge in Viking, then in 1976 went to Evansburg Lodge. In the late summer of 1979 he moved to Tofield Lodge, and lived there until the time of passing, in 1981 at the age of 84.

Stecyk, William Family by Helen Stecyk

My husband, William (Bill), son of John and Katherine Stecyk, was born in 1920 in a two room house in the Kopernick district. He attended Unity school in the Kopernick district, and Rich school south of Bruce. When he was 18 years old his parents bought a farm two and a half miles southwest of Holden. We worked with his dad on the farm until leaving to serve in the army from 1941-45. He was in the artillery squadron until the war ended. In the fall of 1946 he bought a truck and established a business, hauling livestock and grain in the Holden district.

I was born in my parents' house two and a half miles south of Holden, in 1928, fourth daughter of Anthony and Josephine Mielimaka. My father and a midwife helped with the delivery. All my twelve years of schooling were taken in Holden School, from which I graduated.



Kathy (inset), Kenneth, Bill, Carol, Robert, Helen and Joan Stecyk.

There were no school buses to pick us up, so we walked the two and a half miles most of the time. Before going to school we always had to help with the milking and other chores. Many times we had to run, so that we wouldn't be late. In the winter when we were younger, my dad used to take us in a sleigh. I remember my mother heating up bricks and wrapping them in a blanket to keep our feet warm. One incident that stands out vividly in my mind is the time we were going to school in a one horse drawn cutter. We could do this, because there was a barn situated on the school grounds, where the horse could be kept. This one winter morning about halfway to school our horse got scared of something and jumped, tipping the cutter over. My older sister had to let go of the reins, so here we were, all in the snow, while our horse sped away with the cutter. That morning we didn't make it on time.

I met Bill when he was working with a threshing crew on our farm. We were married in 1948, in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The celebration was held out on the farm. A wooden platform was built for guests to dance on, and during the evening lanterns were hung for light.



Back Row: Peter Kawalilak, Katherine Kawalilak, (standing in front are) Jeanette Stecyk holding Mark, Dr. Robert Stecyk holding Robert, Joan Cyca holding Jaclyn, Dennis Cyca, Helen Stecyk, Carol Flynn, William Flynn. Front Row: Jonathan Stecyk, Nicole Cyca, Valarie and Kenneth Stecyk.

Our first home was a two room upstairs suite, rented from Mrs. Symbaluk. We then moved into a suite in the house located on the hill by the Holden United Church, which was built by the Olsens. Our daughter Joan was born while we lived here. In the spring of 1951, we purchased our present home from the Tony Tymchaks. This house is one of the older homes in Holden, and was brought into town in 1925, by T. A. Liden, from northwest of town. It is situated

on a corner lot, a half block west of the Holden Roman Catholic Church. Here we raised a family of five children, three girls and two boys.

Even though we were living in town, our children had many experiences with farm life. Many times during the holidays they went with their dad to pick up livestock and see them sold at the stockyards in Edmonton. They also experienced picking rocks on their grandfather's farm, and when Bill began farming in 1963, the children, especially the boys, gained a better understanding of grain farming. Any spare time they had after school and on Saturdays they helped with the field work and harvest. Many times they came home late at night, but next morning were up bright and early and off to school.

Joan was born in 1949. After graduating from high school she received a secretarial diploma from McTavish Business College. She worked for the Government of Alberta, at N.A.I.T. and the Division of Social Hygiene. In 1977 she married Dennis Cyca, a life insurance agent, licensed with New York Life. He is now incorporated as D R C Insurance Services Ltd. They have two girls, Nicole and Jaclyn and reside in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Robert (Bob) was born in 1951. After completing high school in Holden, he went to the University of Alberta, and graduated in 1975, with a degree in the Faculty of Medicine. He then completed a residency in Family Medicine, and has established a medical practice in Fort Saskatchewan. He married Jeanette Matwichuk, of Lamont, in 1974. She is a school teacher. They have three sons, Jonathan, Robert and Mark. Their home is in Fort Saskatchewan.

Kenneth was born in 1953. After graduating from school, he attended the University of Alberta for two years, then worked at Inuvik in the N.W.T. with oil companies. Then he went to N.A.I.T. and graduated with a diploma in Earth Resources. In 1979, he married Valarie Hallett of Holden, a school teacher, and moved to Calgary to work for Home Oil. He attended the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology and graduated as a Petroleum Engineer in 1982. They have lived in Calgary and Rockyford, Alberta, where Valarie taught school. They now reside in Irricana, Alberta. Valarie is teaching in Kathryn, Alberta, and Ken still works for Home Oil in Calgary.

Carol was born in 1954. She has worked in the accounting office at the University of Alberta Hospital since graduating from Holden School. She married William Flynn, of Bruce, in 1977. They live on an acreage southwest of Tofield. William is a licensed mechanic at Southgate Tire and Service Centre in Edmonton.

Katherine (Kathy) was born in 1960. She re-

ceived a degree in education in the spring of 1982 from the University of Alberta. In 1978 she was married to Peter Kawalilak. They reside in Edmonton where Peter works as a policeman for the City of Edmonton.

In the fall of 1972, Bill suffered a stroke, leaving him paralyzed on his right side, and forcing him to retire from his trucking business. It was a difficult time for him to adjust to his disability, but he was determined to remain as independent as possible. Through therapy he took driving lessons and with the car being equipped with left hand controls, he was able to drive again. His days were spent driving to the farm, which we rented out, and visiting friends around town. Bill passed away of a heart attack in 1978.

I worked at Thor Agencies in Holden for a time and in 1974 got a job managing the Holden Variety Store, where I am still employed.

Stefanizyn, Family **by Peter Stefanizyn**

My grandfather was Maciez Stefanizyn. Grandma was Rozalia Rabby. They were both born in Lacka Wola, in Poland. They came to Canada about 1904 with their family, Joe, Anthony, Albert and Katie, later Mrs. Albert Kaluzny and Sophie, later Mrs. Alex Chomick, who settled in the Bruce area.

Anthony, my father, left home to work for the C.P.R. at Daysland in 1905. He worked there for a few years.



Anthony and Justina Stefanizyn, granddaughter Diane.

My mother, Justina Leckachinski came from Poland with the Andrew Macher family and got a job working for George Maruszecka near Holden. She and my father married in 1910. They lived with Father's parents for a while. Father took a homestead at Flat Lake where they stayed for thirteen years. The land was poor so they moved back to Holden with seven more children. It took us five days to come from Flat Lake to Holden by sleigh and horses.

The children were:

Rosie, Mrs. Peter Gizoski (deceased). Mary, Mrs. Bill Mysik (deceased). Mike married Sophie Zimmer and now lives in Camrose.



Threshing at Pete and Joe Stefanizyn's.

Katie, Mrs. Bernard King of Edmonton. Louise, Mrs. John Hendel of Holden. Joe married Emily Tkaczyk, and lives near Holden. John married Jean Tkaczyk and lives near Bruce. Edward married Mary Hawrelak and lives in Edmonton.

My parents lived on N.E.-12-48-16 until they retired to Holden. They lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. Lena Ewasuik. Joe was left on the home place where he still lives. Father died in 1961 and mother in 1971. They are buried in the Polska Cemetery.

Stefanizyn, Joseph Lawrence, Family

Joseph Lawrence Stefanizyn was born in 1921 at Flat Lake, Alberta. After coming to the Holden area with his parents Anthony and Justina, he attended Fairview and Scona Schools. In 1942 he enlisted in the Canadian Army. He served as a trooper in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe until his discharge in 1945. He recieved the France-Germany Star 1939-1945 and 1939-1945 medal. Upon his return he continued to farm with his father.

Joe married Emilia Tkaczyk at Polska R.C. Church in 1952. Emily, daughter of John and Mary Tkaczyk was born in 1926 and raised in the Holden-Bruce area. She attended Scona and Holden Schools. She had been employed at Bruha's Restaurant in



Joe and Emily Stefanizyn.

Viking, and Bilyk's Coffee Shop in Holden. Joe and Emily have three sons.

Randy, born in 1956 graduated from Holden School in 1974. He took a welding technology course at S.A.I.T. from 1975-77 and is now employed as operation manager at Hanson's Material Engineering. Randy and Lynne Hisset of Bruce were married in 1978, reside in Edmonton, and have one child, Amanda Lynne.

Rodney, born in 1958, graduated from Holden School in 1976. He attended N.A.I.T., 1977-1980, and holds his Pressure B certificate in welding. He is



Joe and his three sons, Rodney, Alden and Randy.

self-employed, works and lives in Edmonton, and farms on week ends.

Alden, born in 1960, graduated from Holden School in 1979. He attended the Marvel Beauty School. He lives and works in Camrose as a hair stylist at the Plaza House of Hair Design. He too, farms on weekends.

Joe and Emily still live on, and run the family farm: NE 12-48-16-W4.

Stefanizyn, Peter and Valerie

I, Peter, was born in 1911 in the Bruce area. When I was fourteen we moved back from Flat Lake to Holden. I attended Fairview School; the teacher was Mrs. Silverthorn. Then I helped my father on the farm, ploughing was done with a walking plow and three horses. With two plows we plowed six acres a day. I worked for neighboring farmers for fifteen dollars a month doing spring work and harvesting.

I went to the army in 1943 and served until 1945. After being discharged I came back to Holden to my parents home. I bought land from Emil Dorin, N.W.-4-48-15 and also had S.E.-8-48-15.



Peter Stefanizyn and Diane.

I married Valerie Silakiewicz from the St. Paul area in 1949. We moved to my farm where we raised a family of five children, all of whom graduated from Holden School. Diane married Frank Tchir and have three children, Aaron, Travis and Lindsay. They live in Edmonton. Jerome, married Gloria Danilak. They have two children Marcel and Kristina, and live in Holden. Sharon is married to Vincent Ferrucci and lives in Prince George. Janice, lives in Vancouver, B.C. Veronica is married to Wayne Banack and lives in Camrose.

During these years we bought two more quarters of land, S.E.-5-48-15 and N.W.-33-47-15. In 1968 we built a new bungalow and then we took the old brick house down, brick by brick. This house had been built by William Dorin (a cattle buyer) in 1926.

This house had a full basement, main floor, an upstairs and an attic that could have been finished for another storey.

In 1979 we decided to quit farming. I sold the land to Dorin West from Rosalind and we presently live at 6307 — Marler Drive in Camrose.



Pete Stefanizyn's house.

Steinwand, Alex F. Family

In the spring of 1948, Alex and Bertha Steinwand, together with their young family moved onto the Campbell farm two miles west of Holden. They had farmed in the Ryley and Vegreville areas before coming here. As most farmers in the area at that time, they milked cows, raised beef, chickens and hogs.

In 1951 the old farmhouse burned down to the ground leaving the family to make do in granaries until a new home could be built. These were hard times but with God's help they survived.



Fiftieth Anniversary of Alex and Bertha Steinwand.

One by one the children left to make homes of their own and in 1969 Alex and Bertha moved into town, semi-retiring from farming and selling the home place to the eldest son, Rudy. At present, they are residing in Tofield, where they are enjoying reasonably good health. They always enjoy company, especially family, grandchildren and old friends.

Lorraine and Erwin Wiens have a family of two boys and one girl and live on a broiler farm west of Tofield.

Betty and Don Klein have two girls and one boy and raise beef and grain on a farm north of Viking. Betty enjoys drawing and painting in oils in her spare time.



Family of Alex and Bertha Steinwand.



Rudy Steinwand family: Gerald, Dennis, Valerie, Darlene. Front Row: Rudy and Jessie with Lynnette.

Rudy and Jessie Steinwand were married and moved on to the Raeder place in 1961. Besides farming, Rudy drove the school bus for eleven years.

When Alex decided full time farming was getting too much for him, Rudy bought the home place. Dairying became the main source of income and bus driving was left for someone else to do.

They have five children. Valerie is a computer operator for Mutual Propane in Edmonton. Dennis, Darlene, Gerald and Lynnette are still at home, attending school and helping around the farm.

Stewart, Charles by Ted Kelly

Charles Stewart and his two sons, Harry and Alfred, settled in the Poe district in 1900. The family had emigrated from England to Nebraska, U.S.A. about 1880. They settled on light sandy soil in the open plains. The family consisted of Charles, his wife, two sons and five girls. Harry and Alfred were the youngest. The second year Mrs. Stewart got caught in a prairie fire and was burned to death. They were fifty miles from where they could get supplies. Harry used to tell how his father carried fifty pounds of flour on his back for fifty miles to feed them when they were kids.

They heard about this great country of Canada. It was said that there was no wind and the snow would pile up on the fences a foot high. This was quite true around 1900, as the country was two thirds brush, so there was lots of windbrush. They decided to immi-

Ken and Joyce Steinwand live in Rycroft, Alberta, where Ken owns "Peace Valley Seeds", a grass seed plant. They have one daughter.

Ella and Keith Huss live on a grain farm at Lacombe, Alta. Ella is a registered nurse. They have two sons and one daughter.

Ed and Grace Steinwand have one son and one daughter. They live in Edmonton where Ed is employed at MacMillan and Bloedel.

Alfred and Heather Steinwand live at Enderby, B.C. where Alfred is a machinist. They have two sons.

Herb and Vi Steinwand are living in Edmonton with their two sons and one daughter. He is employed at Supercrete.

Irma and Lawrence Sylvester live in Sherwood Park. Irma is employed at Eaton's while Lawrence works for the city of Edmonton. They have one son and one daughter.

grate to Wetaskiwin in the summer of 1899. They waited half the summer to get a railway car. By this time all the girls had left home and their dad had a housekeeper living with them. They loaded all their possessions, a team of horses, one cow, and some chickens. They left their housekeeper behind sitting on a chair that was the only thing left in the sod shack. Harry has often talked about her and wondered whatever happened to her.

Charles, Harry and Alfred rode in the caboose on the train. Three weeks later they arrived in Wetaskiwin. They spent the winter cutting wood for a living.

In the spring of 1900 they came to the Poe district looking for homesteads. Charles filed on N.E. ¼ and Alfred the S.E. ¼ of 14-49-17. Harry got S.W. ¼ of 24-49-17-W4. They built a sod shack that summer about 16' x 20'. The sod was ploughed about four inches deep, and cut in three foot lengths. The walls were three feet wide. Poplar rails about four inches through were cut and peeled for the roof, hay was put on top and about three feet of loose dirt. The west and the east each had a window about two feet square and there was a small door on the south. This shack stood for over fifty years. If there had been heat in it, it would still be there.

I remember many a story Harry told of the early days. The only thing they grew the first year was a half box of potatoes. He left early one morning for Wetaskiwin to see if he could sell them and bring back supplies for winter. About dusk, he was crossing the Battle River, and the water was just about up to the wagon box. He got stuck and the horses could not pull it through. It was late in the fall; there was some freezing ice on the water. He always carried his logging chain on the reach of the wagon. There was nothing left to do but take his clothes off and crawl under the wagon and get his chain. He said that was the last time he carried his chain on the wagon reach.

They built a log shack on the south end of the sod, and Harry lived in it until the fifties. In 1910 they built a frame house to move to where the sod was, but Charles died of pneumonia in 1912, and it never was moved. Alfred built a new house and barn. This homestead is now occupied by the Mahowich family.

The Stewarts became quite prosperous and remained so until about 1930. They raised many a horse that weighed over a ton, and sold several teams for \$500. I remember, as a small boy, dad coming in and saying Harry was offered \$1000 for a four horse team and he turned it down. Alfred bought a new 1929 Chevrolet sedan from Kenny James for \$995, but he never learned to drive it. To settle their father's estate they sent the full value of his homestead to his

daughter in the U.S.A. as she needed it more than they did.

Harry had purchased a Hudson's Bay quarter and sold his farm to me in 1943. At that time he was suffering from arthritis. I took him down to Banff Hospital where he stayed for eight months. He came back and lived in his shack where I looked after him till the early fifties. He moved to Poe where he lived for a number of years. One day he was hit by a train and ended up in Tofield Hospital. Later he was moved to St. Joseph's Hospital on Whyte Avenue. The last time I visited him his mind was gone, and he was tied in an arm chair. I hardly knew him, he was so thin. He died at the age of eighty-seven and was buried in a pauper's grave. Alfred died two years later in the nursing home in Killam. I looked after his funeral and he was buried in Holden Cemetery.

Stewart, Mike

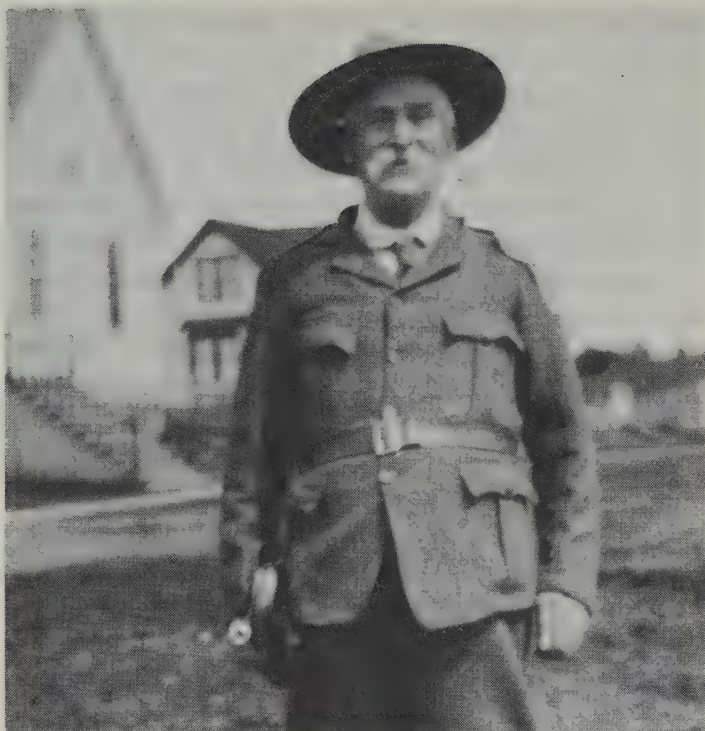
Mike Stewart from the Mundare area, and Jessie Suchy were married in 1938 and have since resided in the Borschiw area. During the early years on the farm they milked cows, raised pigs, chickens, turkeys and geese in order to provide extra income. They endured many hardships. Jessie helped in the fields during the day and at night did the washing, canning and other housework. This was typical of farm women in the early years of farming — helping to make the farm a success.

Mike passed away suddenly in 1980 and Jessie is still living on the farm north of Borschiw. Jessie and Mike had four children; Lennie passed away in a farm accident at the age of four and a half yrs. Bernie is married to Charlotte Zuk and they have two children Claudine and Ronnie. They live in Sherwood Park where Bernie works for Vinto Engineering and Charlotte works as a Librarian. Most weekends and holidays find them out at the farm doing the field work, seeding and harvesting. Audrey is married to Marian Chudyk from the Lamont area and they have two children. They now reside in Ft. McMurray. Debbie is married to Dennis Prezanowsky from Edmonton and they reside in Edmonton.

Stokes, Thomas R.

Mr. and Mrs. Stokes came from England before 1909 with their son Thomas, and Mrs. Stokes' sister, Miss McTaggart. They lived in the little house on the east side of the first United Church manse. The Stokes' house has since been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lake, Mrs. Mary Andrews and John Ogonoski.

Before coming to Holden Mr. Stokes was a member of the Royal Artillery and had served in England, at Gibraltar, Malta and many other places. He was



Thomas Stokes in the mid twenties.

fond of saying "If it was difficult the Royal did it quickly, but if it was impossible it took a little longer".

He and his sons started a papering and decorating business here. Mr. Stokes started the first Scout troop and was the first scoutmaster with G. H. Taylor his assistant. Mr. Stokes also had a Girl Scout troop. He was regarded with affection by the scouts.



Unknown, Mrs. Bosomorth, Mrs. Brisbin, Mrs. Stokes.

Stokowski, John and Mary

John, the son of Konstanty and Mary Stokowski, was born in Edmonton in 1928. He moved with his parents to the farm which was five miles east of Holden in 1930. John attended school at West Bruce until 1943. He then helped his parents on the farm. In 1951 he purchased some land about twelve miles southeast of Holden, but did not move there until 1954 when he married Mary, the daughter of George



Back Row: Roger, Monica, Vivian, John, Mary, Barbara, Brian, and Theresa. Front: Wesley and Jacqueline.

and Pauline Christian. Mary was born in 1935. She attended Fairview School. Mary and John farmed the land which was once owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Olberg, and raised a family of eight children; Brian, Theresa, Monica, Vivian, Barbara, Roger, Wesley and Jacqueline. They lived on the farm until 1975 when they sold out and moved to Camrose, Alberta.

Stokowski, Konstanty Family

Konstanty Stokowski, one of seven was born in Poland in 1893. One brother, two sisters are living in Poland and one brother lives in Edmonton. He served in the army in World War I and lost his home and belongings twice during the war. In 1917 he married Mary Godlewski. They had three children in Poland.

Konstanty left his homeland and his mother and brother, and left for Canada. In 1924 he arrived in Canada and made his home in the Lamont district, where he was employed as a carpenter. In 1926 his wife Mary Stokowski arrived in Canada from



Mrs. Konstanty Stokowski and children Annie, Sophie and Eva in 1925.

Bialysyock, Poland, with their three children: Eva, Annie and Sophie. They lived in North Edmonton for four years where Walter, Kay and John were born. In 1931 they moved to E½ 4-49-15, four miles east of Holden. Then there were five additional children born, Steven, Helen, Fred, Frank and Lawrence. Konstanty did most of his land clearing with an axe. He had a team of horses and a walking plow. As the children grew he had more help and made more improvements. He purchased a tractor, binder and threshing machine. The boys rode the binder and the girls stooked. Everybody helped at threshing time, and the mother prepared big meals for the busy family.



Stokowski family, 1949. Standing: John, Kay, Larry, Steve, Walter, Frank, Helen, Fred. Seated: Jenny, Konstanty, Sophie, Mary and Eva.

In 1955 the parents retired and moved to Edmonton where they lived until their passing. Mrs. Stokowski passed away in 1959, and Mr. Stokowski died in 1975. Eleven children survive them.

Eva, married to Michael Chrystian, now lives in Camrose. Jenny (Annie) married to Steve Kondrat lives in St. Albert. Sylvia (Sophie) lives in Florida married to Ed. Czarniak. Walter married to Helen Gonk, is now living in Calgary. Kay, married to Frank Haluschak, is now in Sherwood Park. John is in Camrose, married to Mary Christian. Helen, married to Victor Szott of Daysland. Steven, married to Joyce Tkaczyk, lives on the home farm. Fred, married to Marlene Homula, is living in Edmonton. Frank is married to Adeline Jacula and lives in Red Deer. Larry (Lawrence) married to Patricia Warwa and lives in Edmonton. There are 53 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren.

Stokowski, Steve Family

Steve, son of the late Konstanty and Mary Stokowski was born in 1931 on the farm where he presently lives. He attended West Bruce and Long-



Gary, Janice, Steve, Joyce, Darold and Dwayne Stokowski.

ridge Schools. In 1955 he married Joyce Tkaczyk. They have four children, Janice, Gary, Darold and Dwayne. All attended Holden School and were active in sports. Janice, R.N.A. lives in Mallorca, Spain. Gary farms east of Holden. Darold and Dwayne work and live in Edmonton. Steve and Joyce who have lived all their lives in the Holden district, are actively farming the farm where Steve was born and raised.

Story, Arthur by Doris Story

I married Arthur Story of Holden in 1929 and we lived on Arthur's father's homestead. Arthur's uncle, Alf Palmer lived with us for many years.

One day Arthur went to Edmonton on business, and Uncle was cutting and burning brush south of the yard when a whirlwind caught the fire, and carried it over the fire guard to a windbreak near the yard. We got the fire out, and when Arthur came home he hauled many barrels of water to ensure that it was out. The next day a strong wind came up and fanned up the fire, hurling burning sticks toward the house. I phoned Mayor Tom White in Holden, and he got a truck load of men who were in town to come out and help us. They kept the roof of the house watered down, but a fire started in the wood pile which they put out. The sparks were blowing over to the open hay loft in the barn, so the men raised the door which hadn't been moved in years. We did not lose any buildings and we were very grateful to those men who saved our home for us.

Arthur and I had three children, all who attended school in Holden. Vernon was born in 1930. In 1949, he joined the navy and went to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, where he married June Ellis in 1951. They now live in Edmonton. June works for the C.N.I.B. and arthritis forced Vernon into an early retirement.



Golden Wedding of Doris and Arthur Story, 1979. Back Row: Rick Story, Bill Clark, Wanda Clark, Koop Spannenburg, Florence (Story) Spannenburg, Jean (Handy) Story, Gordon Story, June (Ellis) Story, Vern Story, Elizabeth Story, Donald Spannenburg. Front Row: Lee Story, Gerbin, Debbie and Michael Spannenburg, Doris Story, Arthur Story, Tracy, Sue and Brian Story. Sitting in front: Heather (Rumohr) Story and Tim Story.

They have four adopted children; Brian, married to Susan Haliman lives in Redwater and has one daughter. He works for the C.N.R. Heather married Carl Rumohr, who has his own band and works for the city. They have one daughter. Tim is a mailman in the city and Elizabeth is going to school and working.

Florence was born in 1934 and after completing her education went to Edmonton where she trained as a bookbinder. She married Koop Spannenburg in 1954, who came to Canada from Holland in 1951. He is fleet supervisor for Northern Alberta Dairy Pool in Edmonton. They have three children; Wanda, who is also a bookbinder, is married to Bill Clark. He is a carpenter in Edmonton and they have one son. Gerben is married to Debbie Miller and they have two children. He is a glass glazer in Edmonton. Donald is a van body builder and he is engaged to marry Lorraine Landry.

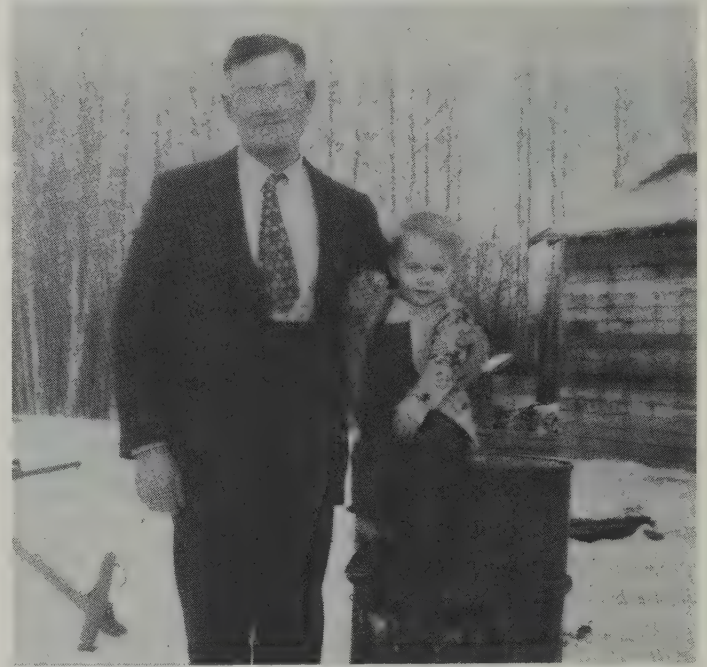
Gordon was born in 1937. He married Jean Handy from Bruce. They stayed on the farm and he drove school bus for five years. He is now postal supervisor and Jean is a postal clerk in Edmonton. They have two sons, Rick, whose occupation is undecided, and Lee who is working with plans to join the armed forces.

We had a car accident in 1966 and Arthur wasn't able to farm any more so we sold the farm to Maurice Ruskenveld and moved to Edmonton in 1967 where we were caretakers for Alldritt Apartments. We retired in 1974 and lived with Florence and Koop for 13 months, until we got a senior citizens cottage where we lived until Arthur left me to join our Saviour in 1981. I still reside there and am fortunate to have all my family close by.

Story, George by Lester Story "To Alberta or Bust"

I think it must have been in the year 1901 when Ma and Pa decided to leave the eighty acre homestead in Minnesota. I remember them talking about how inclement the weather was and how they had to turn the flax, even on Sunday so it wouldn't spoil.

I believe Ma was the first white woman in the Holden district. I was two months and nine days old on that spring day, in 1902, when we landed at Wetaskiwin — likely I was the first white baby.



Clarence Story and grandchild.

It was terribly wet weather in those days, and all the sloughs were filled with water. Pa trapped muskrats for several years and made a substantial amount of money even though their hides were worth about fourteen cents a piece. Pa was a skilful hunter, and we had meat on the table in season at all times.

I recall vividly the one room log cabin we lived in. It had a sod roof and the floor was only partially boarded. There were bunk beds along the east wall, and I remember the trundle bed we brought up from Minnesota. It was supposed to be shoved under the bigger bed in the daytime. As I grew older I outgrew the trundle bed so Pa made a bunk for me on the south end near the door. We had two doors in the cabin in case of fire.

Talking about early recollections, I remember seeing Dr. Rush when he came out to our cabin. I do not remember what he came for, but I was in bed and he came over and looked at me. I suppose he must have thought, "What a life".

Dr. Turner also came out one time when Ma had a



Lester Story.

tumor. I remember him pouring water from our cast-iron tea kettle. We had a cast iron pancake griddle, a large cast iron pot for making mulligan, and we had a cast iron gem — well it was used for making oblong gems, like muffins, only different.

We kept pork by salting it real heavy. Our cream went down the well, where there was usually some ice until May. The creamery men came around once a week or so, and tested our cream, and that was quite a help.

We had a half section farm to begin with. Dad got a homestead and a pre-emption by paying so much per acre. I want to tell you it wasn't all a pie social, that homesteading. There was a lot of hard work and prices to take a lick at, and when one wasn't fighting prices, there were the mosquitoes. Pa bought three more quarters of land a little later. A drought in the late teens took our crop, and we learned what it was to have to buy feed at an extremely high price.

Ma took sick in the fall of 1924. She never recovered, and bade farewell to this old world in 1925. Pa said good bye in 1926.

We who are left should never forget their example of courage and stamina in conquering the untamed areas of our beloved Canada.

Story, John family

by Harold Story and his family

John Story Sr. was born in Virginia in 1874. The Story background was definitely English but they had lived several years in Vermont before moving on to Virginia.

When John Story was still a young boy the family decided to move west, this was about 1888 and they settled in a growing town in Iowa by the name of Peterson, located on the Little Sioux River. John took



Wedding picture of John Story and Florence Palmer in 1897.

his schooling at Peterson and then helped his dad on the farm and worked out part-time for neighbors.

As he became a bit older an interest was developing between John and a young lady working in the area. Her name was Florence Palmer, and her ancestors were Pennsylvania Dutch. Florence was born in 1879 in a nearby town of Dows Iowa. This friendship progressed and they were married in 1897. They owned no land in Iowa but Dad bought a farm in



Mr. and Mrs. John Story on their Fiftieth Anniversary.

nearby Minnesota, travelling there by wagon. The new village was named Taunton and that is where yours truly was born in 1900.

It turned out to be very stony land with continual winds blowing. So after five years there, they decided to sell and move again into unknown Canada. Preparations were quickly made to make the move, as Canada was badly in need of more settlers, and experienced American farmers were more than welcome. They could take two car loads, as Alfred Palmer was planning to homestead land in Canada as well.

The border was crossed at Portal, North Dakota, then on to Moose Jaw, then Calgary and north to Wetaskiwin. Wetaskiwin was reached in late April 1902 and the countryside was extremely muddy and mosquito infested.

It appeared as if the best homestead opportunities were far to the northeast, so after purchasing a few necessities, they were on their way. There were no roads at all, only wagon trails and these contained two bad hazards; one was the long hill at present day Gwynne and the other was Pipestone Creek which was running very high that spring. A friendly family by the name of Bosman were living in the area and they were always pleased to provide feed for the horses and anyone could bunk on the floor if they had their own bed roll.

The next day of travelling put them in a homestead area, and after some driving around my dad selected the S.W.-15-49-16. This is where we all lived for a great many years, but we had to live that first winter in a very small space in the upstairs portion of Uncle George's cabin.

This was primitive to the extreme, but the following summer the John Story family put up a good log house with a fairly good upstairs and we lived in this house for a great many years. The walls were logs, but the roof and floors were boards and shingles. This all had to be hauled from Wetaskiwin.

The mailing address then was Vermillion Valley, North West Territories and the mail came into our area by horseback rider in saddle bags at irregular intervals. It is believed this early mail was delivered to the Appleby home, but a year or two later the Wm. Campbell family moved in from Ontario and Mr. Campbell built a good sized home for those times, in fact large enough to put in a small store. He also looked after the mail for several years.

Things were proceeding quite well now and in 1904 a daughter was born to John and Florence. She was named De Lilah.

There were no hospitals around and very few doctors, so many things could go wrong, and did in my mother's case. It very nearly took her life. Lila



Standing: Florence, John and Lila. Sitting: Harold, Arthur, Jack McCloskey and Alf. Palmer — 1914.

was a happy and pleasant girl, but she was unfortunate enough to contract influenza in 1918 and it took her in early life in 1919. A second son Arthur was born in 1909 and he lived until 1981.

John Story passed away in 1954 and his wife Florence was taken in 1966.

Mable Chapman came to Canada in 1919 accompanied by one brother and the family physician. She had a very hard childhood as she was young during the first world war and food was very scarce. It was obtained mostly by standing long hours in a lineup.

Mable managed to pick up some house work, and



Harold and Mabel Story family. Standing: Lawrence, John, Lila, Calvin and Ronald. Seated: Harold and Mabel.

then in 1920 she started work at the Story household and never did really go looking for a better job. She was a favorite with my parents as they had lost their own daughter so recently. To make a long story short we were married in 1922 and left on the evening train to spend a honeymoon in Vancouver. Mable was a homebody and enjoyed relaxing with her knitting, but I was inclined to go to some of the hockey games and to a pool room once in a while. We had no home of our own at this time but staying with my parents was never a problem.

We raised a family of five children; Lawrence, John E., Lila, Calvin and Ronald. They all attended Holden School. All the family are doing quite well at present. Unfortunately the wife and mother is no longer with us as she was taken in 1980. She was always a dedicated wife and a much loved mother.

Lawrence was always an inquisitive youngster, interested in mostly anything that would take him off the farm. He played hockey and baseball for both school and senior teams. He joined the army in 1940 and served in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., as well as the Pacific, Italian and French theatres of war. During the liberation of Rome he seized one of the Tiber bridges. He received several promotions, that of Lance Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant and Sergeant Major. He was commissioned in the field in July 1944 and wounded in August 1944. He attended U.B.C. and received his B.A. and B.Sc. and was employed as a research chemist with paint companies in Toronto and New Westminster, holding such positions as technical-director, managing-director and vice-president. He was a patentee in the field. He was also involved in many other business ventures and community endeavors.

Lawrence married Jessica Scott in 1946. They have two daughters Judith and Terry (married to Patrick Aguilar) and two grandsons. They presently reside in Surrey, B.C.

John was born in 1924. He was always active in sports, especially hockey and baseball but always found time to help on the farm. He joined Northwestern Utilities in 1950. John met and married Lorraine Hamilton of Daysland and while living in Holden three daughters were born to them, Debbie in 1955, Laurel in 1956 and Donita in 1958.

John became district agent in Holden in 1955, and in 1960 the family moved to Rimbey where John served as agent for Northwestern Utilities. While here, a son, Wilfred was born in 1964. The Story family was active in sports and community affairs.

Debbie and Jim Kirkpatrick were married in 1972. They have two sons and live in Rimbey. Laurel, after working in Edmonton for several years, married Bill Hutton of Bluffton in 1978. They have a son and

live in the Edmonton area. Donita worked as a nursing aid for a few years and is married to Blaine Cross of Bluffton, where they reside with their two sons.

John and Lorraine moved to Camrose in 1975 where Wilfred finished his schooling and hopes to get into the machinist — welding trade. John will have completed 32 years with Northwestern Utilities in 1982.



John and Lorraine Story and family.

Lila, the third arrival was a girl born in 1927. She was christened De Lilah Emmeline, and was always known as Lila. After completing her schooling in Holden she took a business course at Alberta College in Edmonton. She married Ralph Harrison in 1949 in the Holden United Church. They lived in Edmonton for a number of years where their three sons were born, Robin in 1952, Blaine in 1958 and Dale in 1961. They spent nine years living in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where Ralph managed a service station and Lila worked with him in the office. When they moved back to Edmonton, Ralph managed several service stations for Imperial Oil. Lila works as an accountant for the owners of Londonderry Mall.

They now have two granddaughters, Christina and Jennifer, daughters of Robin and Lorraine (Gross). Their other sons are continuing their education, Blaine at S.A.I.T. in Calgary, and Dale at N.A.I.T., in Edmonton and is living at home.

Calvin was scheduled to arrive on March 6 but decided to linger because it was too cold on the outside. He was born on March 7, 1932, and he appeared ready for chores. Also known as Kelly, he was very interested in hockey and baseball. While completing his education at Holden School, Calvin started farming with his father and took over the family farm in 1959. The same year he married Adelle Rabby of Viking. The home which Calvin's parents moved to in 1928, is still occupied by Calvin and Adelle.

They have three children; Lori is married to Ken Kiziak and they farm in the Kopernick area. They have one son, Ryan. Perry graduated from high school and is presently working for the County of Beaver and also works with his dad. Kelly Ann, is attending high school in Holden. The family is active in 4-H and enjoy most sports.

Ronald, the last member of the family, was born in 1937. Ron was supposed to be a girl, but someone crossed the wires I suspect, so he was not. After graduating from high school in 1956 he attended Alberta College. He married in Edmonton in 1956, and raised two sons, Doug and Brad. Both live and work in Edmonton. Ron worked at International Harvester Co. in Edmonton for six years in the sales accounting office. For the past twenty years he has been employed as an auditor with the Provincial Government.

Suchy, Hrenko (Harry)

Hrenko (Harry) and Nancy Kowalchuk were married in Galicia, Austria in the late 1890's, and while there they farmed a small area of land. Seeking a better life they immigrated to Canada in 1901, and came west to Edmonton where Harry worked at digging sewer ditches, and Nancy worked as a cook for a crew of men. In 1902 Harry applied for a homestead entry (S.E. ¼-4-51-16) in the Haight district, and moved there in the summer of 1903. They chose to settle in this area as there were other people from their homeland who had also settled here.



Harry and Nancy Suchy.

Harry continued to work in Edmonton and farm his land. During the years 1903 to 1906, he increased his cattle from three to seven head. According to homestead records he had three horses and four oxen, which he probably used to break land. They also built a log house which was valued at \$100 and a log stable valued at a \$150, among other things. Harry received title to his land in 1906.

In 1910 they bought an additional 80 acres of land and in 1928 they bought one quarter from the C.P.R., which was located across the road from the home place. Then in 1929 they bought one quarter of Hudson's Bay land. As the family grew, the need for a larger house became apparent. By this time there were six children, and in 1915, a two storey brick house was built at a cost of \$3000. It was a beautiful house in those days and stood as a land mark for many years until it fell into a state of disrepair and was demolished in 1975.

The Suchy family endured many of the hardships that came with pioneering a new land and raising a large family. Tragedy struck when Nancy passed away suddenly in 1930 at the age of 47. The family carried on with the older children caring for the younger ones and so the family grew up. Harry passed away in 1943 at the age of 67.



Harry and Nancy Suchy, Annie and Nick Puk, Mike Zuk and Peter Pooke — 1929.

Harry and Nancy had sixteen children; the eldest, Paul, born in the Ukraine, passed away shortly before they immigrated to Canada. Annie was born in Edmonton and the remainder of the children were born in the Haight district.

Annie married John Yuchem from Mundare, and they lived in Vancouver until their deaths. They had five children, all of whom still live in Vancouver.

Mary married John Tkaczyk. They lived near Holden and in later years in the Viking area. They have a family of six children.

Lena married Peter Kowalchuk, Peter married

Mary Tymchak, (their stories are elsewhere in the book).

Clara married John Chudobiak and they lived their entire married life in the Calgary area. John worked on the railroad for many years and later farmed. They had four children. John is now deceased.

Julia married Fred Tkaczyk, Caroline passed away at the age of six, Frances (deceased in 1960) was married to Tony Tymchak, Jessie was married to Mike Stewart, and Steve married Pauline Topilko. (Their respective stories are elsewhere in this book).

John, a twin to Steve, married Katie Sydor. He farmed the home place at Haight for many years, and now resides and works in Edmonton. They have two children.

Bessie is married to John Kalynchuk and they farm north of Holden. They have five children.

Patricia died in infancy.

Pearl is married to John Stuart and they farm in the Vegreville area. They have four children.

Dmetro never married. He farmed the 80 acres his dad bought in 1910. In 1974 he sold the farm and moved to Holden where he still resides. The house Dmetro resides in was once the telephone office. He is employed as caretaker of Northview Manor and the Holden Lodge.

The members of the Suchy family held a family reunion in 1979 with the majority of the relatives attending, giving all a chance to meet each other's spouses and their families. Harry and Nancy have left us with a great legacy.

Suchy, Peter and Mary

by Mary Suchy

Peter was born in 1908 at Haight, Alberta, eldest son of Harry and Nancy Suchy. He attended Togo School and later farmed with his father.

I was born at Smoky Lake in 1914, daughter of Luka and Clara Tymchak, who settled in the Holden area in 1929.

Peter and I were married in 1933, and moved into the big brick house, to live with his father and several younger brothers and sisters. Living with parents until you could afford a place of your own was common in those days, but these were depression days, and the arrangement lasted for four years. The house was situated near the C.P.R. branch line that went from Camrose to Vegreville, and there were many men who walked the track looking for work. It was quite common to have one stop at our place and ask for a meal. It was while we were living here that our daughter Leona was born in 1935.

In 1937 we rented land from the Mike Kolodychuks, west of Haight. We started farming on



Peter and Mary Suchy in 1933.

our own with few possessions; two horses, a wagon, three cows and a few household articles. In 1938 we purchased a quarter section of land (S.E. 23-50-16) north of Holden. The following years were somewhat easier as prices of farm produce improved. Gradually we were able to purchase better machinery and our first car, a 1929 Chev.

Our son Lawrence was born in 1941. The children attended Holmdene School until 1948, when they were bussed to Holden. In 1949 we moved again, to a farm we bought from Tom Stokes (S½-13-50-16), where we spent the rest of our farming days.



Family of Peter and Mary Suchy: Peter, Leona, Mary and Lawrence.

Leona is married to Norman Koetke. (Their story is elsewhere in this book.)

Lawrence lives in Calgary, and is employed by Gulf as an accountant. In 1970 he married Elizabeth Kobasiuk of Edmonton and they have one daughter, Claire.

We farmed for thirty five years, retiring in 1968, when we moved to Camrose. Peter passed away in 1968. I continue to live in our home in Camrose.

Suchy, Steve

Steve Suchy and Pauline Topilko were married in 1944 in Mundare and lived on the quarter section of Hudson's Bay land (bought by his father, Harry, in 1929), until 1957, when they sold it and moved to their present farm in the Holden-Bruce area. While living in the Borschiw area, five sons were born to them, Leo, Peter, Gilbert, Sandy and Gordon.

Steve and Pauline started farming with six cows given to them by Pauline's mother, five horses, about twenty pigs and fifty chickens. Many hardships were endured and money was very scarce. Their second year of farming was very tough, as 1945 was a dry year and the crop yield was 260 bushels of grain off a sixty acre field. The fields were worked with horses until 1951, when Steve bought his first tractor, a W-4, at a cost of \$1200. Later he bought a two bottom plough, five harrows, a disc and a seed drill. Thus modern day machinery slowly replaced the work of the horses. During the years they milked cows, they shipped the cream to Haight. This helped buy the groceries needed for a growing family.



Steve and Pauline Suchy.

Steve started helping Peter Kowalchuk drill water wells at the age of seventeen. This he continued to do as well as trapping muskrats and weasels for pelts to augment the farm income. Many of the early wells that Steve drilled are still in production today.

In 1957 Steve sold his quarter of land near Borschiw and bought a half section in the Holden-Bruce area. Shortly after they moved, two more sons, Otto and Harry were born to them. Steve and Pauline have been actively involved with various groups over the years, and are now kept busy having their sons and families coming to visit.

Their children are: Leo, married to Ruth (Osborne) reside and farm the former Chmil place, north of Holden. Leo is also the manager of the County of Beaver Seed Cleaning Plant. They have two boys, Jason and Sean. Peter lives and farms the Tony Tymchak farm east of Holden. He also works out during the summer months. Gilbert and Dorothy (Hughes) live in Tofield where they have a trucking business. They have two sons, Larry and Ross. Sandy and Shirley (Wideman) live in Ryley with their sons, Terry, Ricky and Steven. Sandy owns and operates the Tofield Transit Mix. Gordon and Linda (Maurer) farm east of Ryley with their three children, Connie, Scott and Amanda. Gordon also works for the C.N.R. Otto and Rita (Tennant) farm the former Woicichoski place. Otto also works for Tofield Transit Mix during the summer. Harry and Eileen (Pyzik) live east of Holden. Harry works for Sandy, and Eileen works in the Royal Bank in Holden.

Szott, John and Helena

John, the son of Michael and Barbara (Laskoski) Szott, married Helena Ozubko in 1945. Prior to her marriage, Helena helped her parents on the farm for a time then found employment in Edmonton at the Macdonald Hotel as a waitress and kitchen help, and later at Woodland Dairy. As a youngster, John attended Sandstorm School.

John and Helena settled on NW-4-47-16 which John had bought from his father in 1941. In 1944 he bought SE-5-47-16 from Ella Freeberg for which he paid \$3,000. John had to clear and break a lot of this land to make it into a productive farm. In 1965 he bought NW-2-47-16 from John Stechynski for \$18,000 which was a lot of money at that time. Here John and Helena lived for ten years. It was during this time that John worked as a welder on various construction jobs in and around Edmonton. His last job was on the Hu Harries Ranch, where he built steel corrals and horse vans. In 1975 they had their house moved to their original farm (NW-4-47-16), where they still reside.

John and Helena had one son, Myran. He at-



John, Helen and Myran Szott.



Myran Szott at Banff School of Fine Arts.

tended Holden School, graduating in 1969. He attended SAIT for one year taking aeronautical engineering, and then the University of Calgary, obtaining his B.Ed. degree in 1974. Myran's early interest in music gave him the opportunity to study art and music during the summer vacation at the Banff School of Fine Arts, when he was eleven years old. In 1964, at the age of fourteen he started playing the violin in his uncle Bill Ozubko's orchestra. An opportunity to play in Wayne Vold's band on weekends while attending university, led to a career in the country and western entertainment field. He has since met and played with many well known recording stars and has appeared on television and radio. He presently appears on the television show "Sun Country" as the "fiddler" in the band.

In 1982 Myran married Gill Lalonde of Calgary, where they reside, and Gill is employed at the Rockyview Hospital.

Szott, Peter

In 1903, Peter Szott and his family immigrated to Canada from Poland. The family consisted of wife Mary, five sons and three daughters. They homesteaded on S.W.2-47-16, in the Polska area, where his grandson, Bernie Szott presently resides. Peter raised his family there as a farmer and a well known blacksmith. The sons of this family grew up and were also farmers in the Polska area.

Peter and Mary's youngest son, Peter Szott Jr., was born in Poland in 1900 and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1903. After he grew up he remained on the farm with his father. In 1924 he was united in marriage to Nellie Vioncek. Nellie was born in 1903 only a few miles south of where Peter lived. Peter and Nellie, and his parents, Peter and Mary, lived and farmed together until Peter Sr. passed away in 1932 and his wife, Mary in 1944.

Peter and Nellie had a family of five sons and three daughters. Peter, as well as being a farmer, was also a good carpenter. During those early days, much land was broken, and many buildings were constructed from the trees that were brushed. They made their own two by fours and also tools to build with. A number of these buildings such as garages, granaries and a summer house, are still in good condition and in use today. Peter did a lot of fine carpentry, such as making crosses and fancy stands for religious statues. During his leisure time Peter enjoyed playing the violin, at which he was also good.

Nellie was a good homemaker and worked hard together with Peter during their lifetime. Besides the homestead, they purchased two more quarters of land. During the last nine years of his life, Peter was

an ill man. He passed away in 1960. Nellie remained on the farm with her son, Bernie, until the last year and a half, when she became ill and entered Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose. She passed away in 1979.

Bernie Szott, born in 1940, resides on the original homestead, being the third generation of the same family to operate this farm. In 1969 he was united in marriage to Margery Rasko, who was born and raised in the Redwater area. They have two children, a daughter, Rae-Ann and a son Blaine, presently attending school in Daysland. Bernie and Margery are enjoying their life on the farm and hope that this homestead will be passed on to a fourth generation family member.

Szott, Victor, Helen and family

Victor, the son of Peter and Nellie Szott, attended Reward School and has lived his entire life in this area. In 1953 he married Helen Stokowski from the West Bruce district. They purchased the land (N.E. 5-47-16-W4) that they are presently living on from John and Frances Szott.

They have five children, Elaine born in 1954, Debbie in 1957, a son Gerald in 1958, a daughter Rene   in 1959 and Penny in 1968. The four oldest children received all their education and graduated



Victor Szott family. Back Row: Debby, Gerald and Rene  . Middle Row: Victor, Elaine. Front Row: Helen and Penny.

from Holden School. Penny, the youngest, is still attending school there.

Elaine married Dennis Wood in 1975. They live on a farm near Ryley, and they have three children, Mandy, Jody and Denver. Dennis is employed with Flint Engineering.

Debbie married Kerry Hunting in 1976, and they are living in Morinville. Their children are Wesley and Candice. Kerry is employed with Trans Alta Utilities.

Rene   married Michael Hunting in 1978. They are living in Camrose and have two daughters, Robyn and Riche  . Michael works for D and K Masonry.

In 1981, Gerald married Debbie Pooke and they live in Camrose. He is employed with DomTar.

Victor and Helen are still farming and enjoying it, only their youngest daughter is still with them.

Tangen, Peter

Peter Tangen was a native of Veldre, Norway, born in 1874. He immigrated to Canada in 1904 at the age of 30, and subsequently became a British Subject by naturalization in 1907. He was interested in owning and operating a farm and decided to settle in Holden district to be near his younger brother, Anstein.

Under the provisions of The Dominion Lands Act, his application for homestead patent was granted, described as follows SE   36-48-17 suitable for mixed farming.

Pioneer life on the homestead was anything but pleasant or easy. It demanded incredible strength, courage and perseverance throughout the years in



Tangen family. Back Row: Agnes, John, Gladys, Arthur and Myrtle. Front Row: Mrs. Peter Tangen, Donald and Peter Tangen.

order to fulfill the required accomplishments. A temporary residence was established by means of a tent. Meanwhile, our father lived and worked in the vicinity, farming, until a log dwelling could be erected for his accommodation. Detailed information during the ten years that he lived as a single man is not known. However, other pioneers were most gracious, as they shared common problems and difficulties.

By 1905 ten acres of land had been broken and cultivated, but it was not until the following year that a crop was produced. Simultaneously, another ten acres were broken and cultivated; thus, improvements became a reality, and some returns were gained to purchase necessary machinery and stock, eventually. Other tasks such as fencing the property and digging a fresh water well had to be done, as time and weather permitted. As far as food was concerned, rabbit stew was commonly used to supplement the diet, with nothing as tasty as a home-made dessert to follow this course.

Regardless of the hardships he endured, we believe that our father would want us and our associates to remember the many blessings and rewards. This was manifested in the unselfishness and goodwill of the wonderful people during his early pioneer life.

In 1914, Peter Tangen married Augusta Eder. She was born in 1890 in Germany, and came from her native land at the age of 24, to join her brother, Fred at Holden. It was a new beginning for all concerned. Life on the homestead resumed for another seven years for our parents.

About 1921, the homestead farm was sold and another farm was purchased at Poe, Alberta, with a view to improved facilities and living standards. However, the necessary difficult tasks remained to be done. A frame house was built with the help of a carpenter friend. In addition to the daily chores, the land had to be cleared, broken and cultivated before it could be cropped.

With favourable weather conditions, and great time-consuming energy, the rewards gained were sufficient to enable the family to survive. Each year larger amounts of grain and vegetables were produced, and some more money was made available to obtain the necessities of life and maintain the stock as well.

Wheat was hauled by horse and wagon to the mill at Mundare, where it was ground into flour and thus, separated into cream of wheat cereal, and bran. This necessitated an overnight stay at the local hotel. Commodities such as milk, cream and butter were separated by means of manually operated machines such as a cream separator and a churn. Believe it or not, a dugout cellar served as our refrigerator. It was

our cool storage centre for such perishables as milk, cream, butter, meat, vegetables, canned fruits, etc.

With the advent of fall, came the long awaited arrival of harvest season which culminated in threshing time. This event was organized in turn, by friends in the neighbourhood and was occasioned by a celebration. An abundance of good food was provided and prepared by mother, and the feast was enjoyed by all. With a successful crop, grain filled bins and straw for emergency stock use, we could then look forward to enjoying some rest and social life.

Coal was used as a slow burning fuel for heating, cooking and baking during the winter months. It was hauled, as required, from Dodds Coal Mine (near Ryley). Kerosene lamps were used to provide evening light as we studied or did our school homework assignments. Mother made preparations for the following day, while father enjoyed reading. We seldom missed a day at school, even in severe winter weather, when father used to drive us to and from school, some distance away. This, of course, was done by a horse drawn sleigh as it crunched through the snow-banks!

As time raced on, the children grew up and eventually left home, farm life became increasingly difficult for our aging parents. Having earned a well-deserved rest, they decided to retire and sold the farm in 1940, when they moved to Murrayville, B.C. However, two years later, our beloved parents returned to Edmonton, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Children born at **Holden, Alberta**: Agnes, in 1915; Myrtle, in 1917; Harry Arthur, in 1919, served in W.W. 2 as Cpl. 24th Royal Canadian Artillery, Transport Division.

Children born at **Poe, Alberta**: John Peter, in 1922; Gladys, in 1924.

Child born at **Edmonton, Alberta**: Donald Robert, in 1937.

Resumé of Occupations and Residences

Agnes is a retired Civil Servant and lives in Edmonton. **Myrtle** is married to Ernest Wilfred Nelson, and lives at Camrose. **Harry Arthur** is married, has one son, is semi-retired, and lives in London, Ontario. **John Peter** is married, has ten children, is a radio and television technician, and lives in Lambeth, Ontario. **Gladys** is married to Kenneth Birger Dalen, has two children, and lives in Grande Prairie. **Donald Robert** is married, is an electronics' technician, and lives in Edmonton.

Peter Tangen was deceased in 1961, at the age of 87. **Augusta Tangen** was deceased in 1973, at the age of 82. Our parents are interred in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Edmonton, Alberta.

Taylor, George H.

George H. Taylor arrived in Holden, in March 1909 with his father Dr. E. F. Taylor of Leeds, England, driving over from Vegreville by sleigh, Dr. Taylor purchased land in the Talbot area and returned home later in the fall. Mr. Taylor spent the summer on the farm and worked on various jobs in the winters, one being on the Grand Trunk Pacific going through the Rocky Mountain area. He has always been associated with the militia, with the 19th Alberta Dragoons, later the 1st Alberta Mounted Rifles and again the 19th Alberta Dragoons attaining the rank of Major. He served overseas in the 1st world war with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Works Battalion. On returning to Holden in 1919 he resumed farming.



Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Taylor on Bert's 90th birthday.

In 1923 he was married to Irene Johnstone Bell of Leeds, England by the late Rev. Percy Sutton. Beginning in 1924 he drove the rural mail for ten years, was a local J.P. and sheriff's bailiff for the Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Vegreville districts until the mid 1940s. He was active in the 2nd world war in Canada and overseas with the 22nd Veterans Guard of Canada, and was awarded the Efficiency Medal for his long record. He is a charter member and life member of the Royal Canadian Legion, serving as president and secretary for over twenty-one years. He is also a life member of the Holden Masonic Lodge and B.P.O. Elks.

Mrs. Taylor has been active in United Church organizations, is a Charter Member and Life Member of the Holden Order of the Royal Purple serving as H.R.L., P.D.D. and secretary for twenty-six years, a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion, a Past President and treasurer for twenty-two years.

They have two sons, the eldest, Brian, of St. Albert is an Electrical Systems Specialist, Prof. Engineer with Public Works, Canada. He is married to Dineke Onvlee from the Netherlands and they have five children, Ernst, Ronald, Barbara, Richard and Cathryne. Their youngest son, Robert, is married to Merle Lund of Bruce and they have two children, Aaron and Saylor. Robert farms north of Viking and is employed by Northwestern Utilities, in charge of well transmission.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor sold their farm after W.W.II and moved into Holden where they have made their home for the past thirty-eight years.

Tchir, Anton and Anna

by Fred Tchir

Anton and Anna Tchir came from Premishienns, Poland to Canada, with three children, Pearl, Andrew and Mary in 1903. They arrived in Strathcona where Anna and the children stayed while Anton with a few friends went walking to pick out a homestead in this strange land. They decided on this area and Anton filed for homestead SE 10-48-16. This took a few weeks and an anxious Anna waited and wondered if and when her husband would return.



Grandma Tchir.

The men made another trip to the homestead to make a shelter. This turned out to be like a cellar with a roof over it. The family lived in this until the next spring when they started building a house. John Bobyak and his family stayed with them for awhile. The first house was near the north end of the quarter. When it was finished and they moved in, a fierce storm took the roof off and wrecked the house. They put up another small log and clay plastered building where the yard is now.

During this time Metro Laskoski stayed with the Tchirs helping to build. He brought his fiancée, Katie Hoozis from the old country and Anton Tchir



Mary (Tchir) Zawalek, with her children, Steve and Katie.

made a wedding for them, like for his own son. They lived with the Tchirs for two years then moved to Gleichen, Alberta, when the new house was finished. It still stands in that yard.

Four more children were born to the Tchirs, namely Metro (Ed), Fred, Mike and John.

Pearl married Peter Kawalilak of the Kopernick district, Mary married Alex Zawalik, Andrew married Mary Bednarski, Ed never married. Ed and John served in the army. Ed was discharged early because of his health, but John served to the end of the war.

Mary, Ed and John are deceased. Pearl lives in the nursing home in Viking. Andrew moved to London, Ontario during the war and is still there. Mike lives in Vialta Lodge in Viking and Fred lives in Holden.

Anton, besides being a farmer, served on the school board and church board. He was the first rural mail man for the district. He brought the mail from Holden to A. B. Nelson's, located on NW 12-48-16 (Scona Post Office). He was also first truant officer for the Scona School.

Priests boarded and spent the night, for years, when they came to celebrate Mass at the South Holden St. Mary's Church. Anton also served at the altar

for many years. For about the last five years of his life Anton lived in a world of darkness. He went totally blind.

Anna was a homemaker and loved her large flower garden. After the family went to bed she worked among the flowers until dark. Women for miles around came for seeds and perennials which she was happy to share.

After Fred got married, Anton and Anna continued to live with them. Anton died at the age 82. Anna lived until 1961 when she died on her 94th birthday. The last three years she spent in St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton after she had suffered a stroke which left her bedridden.

Both are buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery. They left many grandchildren who are mentioned in their own stories in this book.

Tchir, Fred and Annie by Fred Tchir

I was born to Anna and Anton Tchir in 1905. I went to Scona School. At age fourteen I left home to work for the C.P.R. at Daysland where I spent the next twelve years. After the day's work I worked in an automotive garage, then with electricians, blacksmith and with plumbers to learn their trades. I left the C.P.R. and went to work for the C.N.R. between Wainwright and Edmonton as foreman for a white-wash gang for two years and one year in the Kinsella gravel pit.



Fred and Annie Tchir.



Ed Tchir.

By this time my parents were too old to look after the farm and my father was losing his sight, so I came back to the home farm, SE 10-48-16. My farming operations were interrupted almost daily, as neighbors needed tractors or cars repaired or work done in the blacksmith shop. We also had a well drilling rig so Ed and I drilled many wells in the district and put up windmills.

In 1944, I opened a garage on the farm. It was known as Tchir Bros. Garage. I remember serving gas at 2 A.M. on winter nights.

In 1946 I got married to Annie Olesek who was the teacher at the Scona School. Her brother Charles worked with me drilling wells for a few years while Annie looked after the service station and did ordering of repairs and tires. She was a pretty good "parts-man".



Frank and Diane Tchir, Travis, Lindsay and Aaron.

We had four children, Frank, Lawrence, Sandra and Victoria. They all took their schooling in Holden. All are married. Frank married a local girl, Diane Stefaniczyn. They have three children, Aaron, Travis and Lindsay. He is a heavy duty mechanic and works and lives in Edmonton, and also farms the old home place. He is the third generation Tchir to own SE 10-48-16. Lawrence was married to Diane Farness of Round Hill. He and his family live on an acreage in the Ohaton area. He has his own trucking business.

Sandra married Wayne Hamblin. They operated the MM Store for two years bought from Marvin Giebelhaus and later sold it to Ken and Rose Sharpe. They and their two girls Cindy and Corinne live on Vancouver Island where Wayne operates a propane business. Victoria married Robert Kostuk of Edmonton. They have two girls, Tanya and Bobbie. Victoria is a hairdresser and Bob works for Safeway.

In 1974 Annie and I moved to Holden to live with her father, Felix Olesek who was no longer able to live alone. I farmed for a couple of years until I sold my land to my son Frank.

I am now officially retired, but I have kept busy with different projects. When Frank moved the farm house to town, he and I rebuilt the whole inside of it, first ripping out everything to the four outside walls.



Lawrence and Diane Tchir.



Wayne and Sandra Hamblin.

Annie did a lot of substitute teaching over the years and taught one year at the Hutterite Colony.

After seeing both sets of parents through their last years, and raising a family, Annie was prepared for a rest but she keeps very busy with her clubs, needlework and occasional babysitting of the grandchildren.

We live at 5027-50 Ave. in the house previously owned by Felix Olesek.



Cindy and Corinne Hamblin.



Tanya, Victoria, Bob, Bobbie Kostuk.

Teggart, Robert John and Martha Louise

Robert John Teggart and Martha Louise Teggart, parents of Mrs. Charles Lamb came to Holden from N. Ireland in 1928. With them came their son Joe and daughter Jane. They lived on the Lamb farm in a separate house. Their stay in Holden was short, just three years. Finding the winters too severe they all

went back to their beloved Ireland. They have all passed away except for Jane, who is in a nursing home in Ireland.

Edith Carlson's daughter Vivian visited Jane at her home in 1971. Jane's nieces Meta and Freda and nephew Mervyn visited her in 1982.'

Thieme, John and family by Irene (Thieme) Woida

Sarah Dorothy Barlow came to Canada at age of eighteen from Yorkshire, England with her parents Thomas and Matilda Barlow in 1912. They sailed on the first ship to leave England after the sinking of the Titanic.

They arrived in Holden and settled on a farm five miles south west of town, and at that time received their mail at Poe.



John Thieme, Julie Logan and son, Dorothy Thieme and son Jack, Matilda Barlow and Dora and her daughter.

Dorothy had her degree from the London Conservatory of Music and started teaching music almost as soon as she arrived. She rode horseback to the community of Bardo for several years to give lessons. She also taught in Ryley and Bruce. She gave music lessons from age eighteen to eighty six, and hundreds of boys and girls from the area received their instruction from her.

She was also organist and pianist for local churches, operettas and concerts and festivals in Holden.

In 1920 she married John Thieme and they lived in Edson and other Alberta towns before settling in Holden about 1928. John Thieme worked for North Western Utilities for some time on the gas line which was being laid from Viking to Edmonton; all dug by hand. He was also janitor of the local school for years, and did bookkeeping and tutoring in Latin and French to earn extra income during the depression. He was choir master at St. Gregory's church in Hold-



Julia Logan, Dorothy Barlow (Thieme) and her mother Matilda Barlow — 1920.

en for many years and also was music director for operettas and festivals and concerts which were such a vital part of entertainment before the advent of good roads and T.V.

Payment for music lessons was very often in the form of butter and meat, and sewing for our family, as cash was very scarce.

The Thiemes rented Will McVittie's house on the edge of town near the school (later owned by Clint Armstrong). In 1942 they bought a two room house across from the school which had been built by Alvin Thompson. A large addition was built before the family moved in later that year. In 1960 the house was sold to Peter Josey, and the Thiemes moved to Edmonton.

The Thiemes had five children:

John Pursey, was born in 1923, married in 1942 and had one son Neil.

John was killed in action on D Day in 1944.

Irene Dorothy, born in 1925, married Fred Woida in 1947. They farmed at Bruce and Ryley until mov-

ing to Edmonton in 1956. Irene worked for Dun and Bradstreet, and Fred for R. Angus Alberta Ltd. They have four children. Jack Woida graduated from the University of Alberta as Electronics Engineer and resides in Barrie, Ontario. He was married in 1977 and has one daughter.

Lynne Woida was born in 1949, and is a purchasing agent for A.G.T. in Edmonton. She married Jack Parent in 1968, and has one son born in 1980.

Arthur Woida born in 1952 is in computer programming. He was married in 1978, resides in Calgary, and has one daughter.

Douglas Woida born in 1956 works as an installer for A.G.T. and lives in Edmonton.

Mary Theresa Thieme born in 1928 teaches music in Edmonton. She married Robert Blake in 1948, and has three children, Robert, Dorothy Anne, and James.

Iris Joan Thieme born in 1932, married Geoff Sainty in 1954, and resides in Regina. She has four children, Wendy, Kathryn, Barbara and Susan.

Betty Anne Thieme was born in 1933. She died of cancer in 1951.

John Thieme died in 1972, and Dorothy Thieme died in 1981.

Thompson, Taale

Taale was born in Oslo, Norway in 1880. As a child, he immigrated with his family to Elbow Lake, Minnesota. There he grew up, met and married Isa-



Mr. and Mrs. Taale Thompson on their wedding day.

belle Johnson in 1902. A few years later they came to Alberta where they took up homesteading at New Sarepta. In 1907 their first child Alice Selina was born. Two years later Milly Josephine arrived. Mabel was born in 1911. Shortly thereafter, Taale and family moved to Camrose where they lived on a farm. In 1913, Richard was born and another son, Noble, two years later.

Then they moved to the Holden area and settled on a farm three miles north. Taale rode horseback to the town everyday where he worked in the livery stable for Lars Johnson. During this time he and his family moved to a house in the town across the street from the Lars Johnson residence. Here Myrtle Irene was born in 1919.

Now Taale was working on the railroad for the C.N. He and his family moved to a larger house which had previously been the jail, (this house is now occupied by Ethel Brekstad) where they stayed for quite some time. Here three more children were born: Norma Evelyn, Mary and Norman. All the children attended school in Holden.

Taale started working for the Village of Holden; repairing sidewalks, and later laying cement sidewalks and painting numerous buildings. He was the town policeman. Taale was caretaker of the town

hall, and along with his good friend Myron Appleby, was caretaker of the cemetery. Taale was also caretaker of the Lutheran Church which the family attended regularly. He also looked after the curfew and operated the curling rink, and served on the volunteer 'bucket brigade' (fire department).

He was involved in all these activities until he and his wife left Holden and moved to Edmonton to live with daughter Myrtle and husband Richard Millard. There they stayed for a few years until their health started failing. They went to live in the Hardisty Nursing Home in Edmonton. In 1964, his wife Isabelle passed away in the old Misericordia Hospital at the age of 83, and was buried in Holden. Taale passed in 1970 in the General Hospital and was buried alongside his wife.

He was survived by eight children and twenty grandchildren. Of his own children, four are deceased: Miss Alice Thompson in 1944, is buried in the Holden Cemetery, Richard Thompson in 1972, is buried in Vancouver, Noble passed away in 1974 and is buried in Vancouver, Mrs. Mary Nicol in 1978 and is buried in Holden.

Milly and her husband, Don McEachern reside in Edmonton, Mrs. Mabel Oberg resides in Edmonton, Myrtle and her husband Richard Millard reside in Edmonton, Mrs. Norma Carlisle resides in Cleveland, Ohio, and Norman Thompson resides in Edmonton.

Tiedemann, Chris and Mamie

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Tiedemann arrived in Holden in 1928, a year after they were married. Chris was raised in the Tofield district where his dad homesteaded after coming from southern Alberta and the



Thompson family in 1915. Back Row: Mabel, Taale and Alice. Isabelle holding baby Noble, Richard, Millie.



Chris and Mamie Tiedemann.

United States. Mamie's dad homesteaded in the Whitford area where all his family were born. It was in Whitford they met. When they married they returned to Tofield where Chris worked as a barber. Ellen was born in Tofield. Soon after they came to Holden Chris worked in the hotel prior to becoming manager of the Alberta Lumber Co. While in Holden they had seven more children, Cecil, Lawrence, Wilfred (Buster), Marvin, Rodney, Anita and Donna. Though busy raising their family and Chris spending many evenings during the summer months building granaries for extra money, Mamie and Chris enjoyed an active social life in the town. They were members of the Elks' Lodge and the Royal Purple, enjoyed the square dances and badminton club, ladies' and men's club of the Catholic church and had many happy times with friends and neighbors. They both loved a good game of bridge and an evening of fun with their many friends. The family as well enjoyed their growing years active in skating, sports, and took part in whatever was going on in town or school. As each grew up and left home, it was a big day when they could get back to family and friends in Holden. Even today when a reunion is held it is a real pleasure to renew old friends and pleasant memories. Cecil and Lawrence both enjoyed working part time for Albert Pederson at his Red Head station. Buster and Marvin preferred the grocery line and put in several years at the Liden store.



Chris Tiedemann, Percy Owen, Martin Meadahl with their geese.

Ellen left home first to go into nursing and shortly after, Cecil left. After graduating Ellen married Art Weiss and they left for Colombia, South America, where they spent five years before settling in Edmonton. They had two children born in Colombia, a boy and a girl, then two more boys and a girl born in Edmonton. Cecil is working for Calgary Power. He married Jean Spooan of the Strome district, and they are living in Boyle. They have two children a boy and a girl. Lawrence is working in Edson. He married LaVera Smith from Edmonton and they have seven

children, three boys and four girls. Buster graduated in pharmacy and is district manager for a drug company in Edmonton. He married Margaret McGuire from Edmonton and they have six children, three boys and three girls. Marvin married Marilyn Chapel from the Ryley area. He works for a gas company in Bonnyville and they have one boy and two girls. Rodney is an accountant in Edmonton, married Jeanette Nicolson of Edmonton, and they have two boys and a girl. Anita and Donna both graduated from the General Hospital School of Nursing. Anita married Ed Blatz of Daysland district where they still farm. They have one boy and three girls. Donna married Brian Helmig, also of Daysland area, and they now live in Hinton. They have a son and a daughter.

Music was always a part of life in Holden. Mrs. Thieme taught piano to all but Cecil and Lawrence, who chose to learn the violin like their dad. It is still a part of every family get together. Chris and Mamie moved to Edmonton in 1956. Chris worked as a carpenter until his death in 1960 at sixty-two. Mamie passed away in 1979 at the age of seventy-three.

Tiedemann, Henry by Helen (Tiedemann) Zwierschke

Henry was born in Walsh, Alberta and moved with his family to Tofield, attending school at Lakeshore and in 1937 he took a barber's course in Vancouver. I was born in Hardisty, attending school there, active in basketball, softball, track and field sports as well as festival work. Henry came to Hardisty in 1940 to apprentice and while there we met. We were married in June 1942. During the time of 1942-1946 Henry was a member of the Calgary Highlanders and we lived in Saint John, N.B., Sussex, N.B. and Windsor, N.S., until Henry left for the reserve section for the front lines. When the war ended we started looking for a place to make our home. Mamie and Chris were the major factors in us choosing Holden for our future home. In 1946 Henry came and purchased a lot from Nick Bilyk across from the hall as no commercial lots were available on main street. As cement was difficult to get, we decided on a cistern rather than a full basement. Our business demanded water and that was a commodity Holden could not brag about. Carpentry was not Henry's line of work but when one needed a home, well you put your hand to the job. In May we opened a beauty parlor, barber shop and ladies' ready to wear. Though haircuts were only 35¢ and shampoo sets 50¢ we soon had an excellent business going. Our shops were not that fancy but what we lacked in exterior finish we made up for in sharing our spiritual love for our Lord. We were not in Holden too long



Henry Tiedemann family.

before our home became a stopping place for a number of school children. There were teenagers who wanted to talk and tell their problems, and children who just found some one extra with love to share. The girls from the bank made our home their second home. We had very little money but we had a wealth of love to share and God blessed us richly with people to share that love with. I taught Sunday School for years and realized during that time a very sincere desire to serve my Lord. Our church needed pews so I took it upon myself to put on a three act play "Aunt Tillie Goes to Town". We had fun practising and realized enough money with the help of the Ladies' Aid to furnish five pews for the church.

Things ran smoothly until 1949, when we had just made our last payment on our building and we were feeling rather smug about having no debts, God had better plans for us and when the hailstorm ended we were once more in the business of repairing and building. We had spent much time and energy and things were almost back to normal when Henry suffered a nervous breakdown. It was as I prepared a Sunday School lesson that Rev. 3:19 stood before my eyes as neon lights. I read on and the warmth and comfort I felt made me realize that God meant us to rely on Him more for our daily living. Day by day we read, talked and shared until we found the true meaning for our lives in Holden. It was not so much to become rich in material wealth but rich in spiritual wealth. It was the beginning of a true fulfillment of living for us.

Allan was now six years old and God blessed us with a second son David in 1951. Henry spent much time with the boys on nature hunts to Crocus Hill. Building a tree hut on a warm Sunday morning was a favorite pastime for the boys.

In 1955 another little son was given to us by God

and he followed right along in his brothers' footsteps. The boys loved outdoor adventures so when Henry decided to spend four years of his life teaching cubs, our family camping became a reality. The boys spent much time picking bottles, selling Journals and Star Weeklies to make spending money. When Henry could no longer cope with the full cub activities he dedicated his time to serving his Lord as Sunday School superintendent, and as a spare organist for church. We truly had a fulfilled happy life in Holden with the usual summer fishing jaunts to Vincent Lake.

Allan married Bobbi Pankiw and is cooking in the Chateau Locombe. They have two children Sherri and Shane.

David married Maureen Metzger and works for Edmonton Transit. They have three children Wendy, Johnny and Paul.

Robert lives in Edmonton and works at carpentry. The boys are very active in their church for which Henry and I were very thankful.

God chose to call Henry to Him one Monday morning but He also comforts us with the knowledge and faith that we will be reunited in our Eternal Home. Last October God blessed me with another wonderful person to share my life with. Jim Zwierschke and I are happily married and for this we give praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father.

Tkaczyk, Andrew by Donald Tkaczyk

Andrew Tkaczyk was born in 1912, son of Onisko and Teodosia Tkaczyk. The youngest in the family, Andrew attended school in Vermillion Valley to the age of fifteen. Then he helped his parents farm the homestead (NW 24-48-16). After his dad passed



Andrew Tkaczyk with his horses.

away, Andrew continued to farm with his mother. A few years later he bought two more quarters of land.

Andrew remained on the farm after his mother's death, where besides grain farming he also raised a lot of cattle. Andrew and his brother Steve went to many cattle auctions, where they bought and sold cattle. His brother, Fred helped him farm for many years. Andrew also raised rabbits for a hobby. He was a man that enjoyed wildlife and nature.

In the fall of 1973 he purchased a house in Holden and moved there. Andrew passed away in 1974 at the age of 62 years. He is missed by many friends and relatives.

Tkaczyk Family by Harry Tkaczyk

My grandparents, Mike and Pearl Tkaczyk came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1904, with their three sons, Fred, Joe and John. Tillie was born in Canada. They lived with the George Laskoskys for a year, then they bought a farm south of the present Mike Tchir farm from Mr. Marko. They lived there for a few years. Then they bought a house from Mr. Malowka, a carpenter. They moved it two and a half miles across the prairie with horses to the farm where Peter Tkaczyk presently lives.

In 1907, Fred and Joe Tkaczyk and a Marko boy,



Mrs. Katie Tkaczyk, 1959.

took homesteads in the Radway area. There they built a log house with a sod roof. The railroad cut through Fred's homestead coming to within 1000 yards from his house. Fred had a stallion and one Morgan mare, some sheep and a cow.

In 1908, Fred married Katie Lozowiska. Their son John was born in 1915. Harry was born and then Mike, who died. Then came Annie, Mary, Tillie, Rose, Katie, Olga, Bessie, Mike, Nick, Peter and Andrew.

During the early years, Fred (my father) was kept busy clearing and breaking land. The trees were cut, leaving stumps about 3½ feet high and were then pulled with a stump puller. There was a lot of peat soil there, and when the stumps were burned, the ground would burn too. I remember us kids would go with our parents and run barefoot in this soil, but would get out of there quick.

I recall a fellow had a threshing machine with a stationary engine; where one man would cut the bands on the bundles and another would stack the straw. A few years later he got another machine, this one had a blower that blew the straw onto a pile. The machine was pulled with horses when moved and also had a stationary engine. Everybody stack threshed in those days, and grain was put in sacks and hauled away.

Fred did veterinary work and each spring he would go from farm to farm and castrate bull calves and colts. He was a horse lover and was proud of his Morgan horse. He would decorate his team with spreaders and "toss". In the early 1920's Fred cut logs which he trimmed into lumber and built a barn and a house.

Fred's father, Mike, passed away in 1925, leaving his wife, Pearl, and his son John and daughter Tillie to farm the land. One Sunday in July of 1927, John, along with a group of friends went swimming in the C.N.R. dam, and accidentally drowned. Neal Crimmin recovered the body after diving all afternoon to find it. Pearl Tkaczyk and her daughter were unable to farm the land themselves and in 1929 Fred decided to move back to Holden. They loaded their belongings on a boxcar and the move from Radway took two days, with a stop in Edmonton to water the cattle and horses. They settled on NE-23-48-16. Pearl had two quarters of land and Fred bought two more from the C.P.R. for \$800.

The depression years were difficult ones. The early thirties were also very dry. Fred had six wells on his place, and all were needed to water the livestock, and sometimes there was still a shortage of water. Wagons were used all winter as there was no snow. Grain was so short it had to be cut with a mower and raked together for winter feed.



Katie Tkaczyk and her turkeys.

Prices for farm produce were very low; you could get \$4.00 for a wagon load of grain, \$2.50 for a market pig, and steers and cows were 8 to 10 dollars a head. Fred hired two men to cut brush on his C.P.R. land, paying them \$1.00 a day and room and board. He also paid them 1¢ for each willow post they cut. It took them a year to cut 65 acres. Lewie Ritland then broke it for \$3.00 an acre.

There was still a lot of open land east of our place, which we used as pasture for cattle, and by the late thirties had a herd of about 30 horses and 60 head of cattle. Prices began to improve and Fred bought a 1927 Chevrolet car and a 1927 John Deere tractor.

In 1943 Fred suffered a heart attack and passed away, leaving his wife, Katie, nine children and his mother, Pearl. Katie carried on the farming operation with the help of her family until they each either went out to work or got farms of their own. She lived with her sons Harry and Peter until she passed away in 1967. Grandmother, Pearl Tkaczyk passed away in 1947.



Emily and John Tkaczyk.

John was born in Radway, and attended school there till 1927, when he came to Holden to live with his grandmother. While helping his grandmother on the farm he also attended Vermillion Valley School till the ninth grade. He then left school to help his father on the farm. He played hardball and fast ball for several years and also participated in rodeos in such events as steer riding, calf roping, wild horse racing and wild cow milking. After his father passed away, John farmed with his brother Harry for several years.

In 1946 John married Emily, daughter of Nick and Mary Pasnak. Emily was born in 1927 in the Holden area and received her education at Scona School. After they were married they lived with John's mother until 1947, when they bought two quarters of land from Steve Tkaczyk. The house had only two rooms, a kitchen and a bedroom, but everybody from both sides of the family managed to fit in for some very good times.

Their daughter Gloria was born in 1949. She received her education at Holden School, graduating in 1967. She is an R.N.A. and worked in the Tofield Hospital for 5½ years, and now works part-time. Gloria married Clifford Knudslie in 1969. They have a dairy farm near Tofield and have one son Kevin (Casey), born in 1975.

A son Donny, born in 1955 to John and Emily, passed away in 1959.

In the summer of 1959 they purchased two quarters of land from August Renn, where they resided until their passing.

David was born in 1960. He graduated from Holden School in 1978, and then went to Fort McMurray where he took a course in operating caterpillar and heavy duty equipment. He now farms and works part-time for Blair Nelson Oilfield Service Ltd. David also plays third base for the Holden Revies.

Ronnie was born in 1963, and graduated from Holden School in 1981. He farms and also works for Blair Nelson Oilfield Service Ltd. Ronnie is much like his dad, and enjoys working with animals.

John and Emily enjoyed their farm and Emily also liked gardening. They were both members of St. Mary's (South Holden) Parish. For many years John hunted coyotes with hounds. In later years he had only one dog "Jenny" who went everywhere with him.

For many years John led the Holden Sports Day parade, riding his black horse. He also enjoyed sports and encouraged his family to participate.

In 1979, John as usual led the parade at Holden. That evening as John, Emily and Ronnie were return-



Harry Tkaczyk, 1936.

ing home they were struck by a train and were both killed instantly and Ronnie got minor injuries.

Harry — I attended Vermillion Valley School and one year we did some boxing, with Abner Logan as the coach. We had a hockey team; the Vermillion Valley Bear Cats, and Abner Logan coached this also. I was catcher for a hardball team, the Scona Maroons for a couple of years, and when that broke up, I caught for a softball team. We used to play against Vermillion Valley, Fairview and West Bruce. I remember curling in a farmers bonspiel in Holden with Harold Story and winning first prize.

Then I started bronc riding, and for about ten years I participated in stampedes from Dawson Creek to Calgary. One year I rode in the semi-finals at the Calgary Stampede. The next day I rode in the finals, but the horse was better than the man, and I felt the hard Calgary ground. In the 30's I won the saddle bronc bareback riding and calf roping at Kinsella, and got \$45.00 for the three events. I used to take in about sixteen stampedes a year. My brother John and I used to go to the Holden and Bruce sports,



Harry Tkaczyk going for a "ride" at the Calgary Stampede,

and participate in such events as free for all horse races, Roman races and cart races.

John and I used to break a lot of horses for neighbors and others. We also had hounds and hunted coyotes over the years. One winter we got 79 coyotes and received \$8 to \$10 apiece for them. I still have hounds and still do some hunting. John and I farmed together for several years and I quit the stampedes in 1946. When John went farming on his own, the younger boys helped at home.

The "Tkaczyk barn dances" will be remembered by many, the admission was 50¢, which included lunch, and the orchestra played for \$10.00. When we plowed the field some 200 feet from the barn, we would often plow up whiskey and wine bottles, which were buried there during some of those dances.

I recall a snow storm we had in 1951. It stormed for three days and left snowdrifts 10 to 15 feet high.

In the middle 50's the boys and I bought a threshing machine and we threshed for about eight years. We then bought a Super 26 M.H. combine. Nick, Mike and Jim then went out to work, and Pete and I farmed together until 1975 when we had a sale.

Annie married Mike Ozubko (Their story elsewhere).

Mary and Fred Kryshka were married in the early 30's and they lived in Seattle, Washington. Fred passed away and Mary then married John Miller. They have one son and one daughter who live in Seattle.

Rosie passed away in the late 20's.



Olga and Kaye Tkaczyk with Tkaczyk trick horse, 1944.

Tillie also passed away in the late 20's.

Bessie (Munro) was born in Radway and came to Holden in 1929 as a baby. She attended Vermillion Valley School and Camrose College, and then worked in Holden and Edmonton. In 1952 she married Bob Munro and they lived in the N.W.T. and at Oyen where Bob was employed. Bessie passed away in 1954, leaving a baby girl.

Olga (Fix) was born in 1925 at Radway, moving to Holden at an early age. She attended Vermillion Valley School and Unity School. She worked at Zane Bilyk's Store in Holden for two years, before going to Vancouver to work. In 1949 she married Joe Fix of Saskatoon and they make their home in Burnaby, B.C. where Joe is employed. They have two sons and a daughter; Wayne (1952) who is married to Pat Cheray and has one son. Wayne is a heavy duty mechanic. Melvin (1956) is married to Cathy Henry, and is employed with Imperial Oil. Their daughter Valerie (1958) is employed at the University Hospital and has plans to marry Don Jones. Olga is employed at the Burnaby General Hospital.

Kathleen (Kay Beaton). After completing her education she helped her family on the farm. She went to Vancouver in 1946 where she found employment. She married Al Beaton in 1948 who works for the C.N.R. They lived in Vancouver, McBride, B.C. and now are back in Vancouver. Kay has worked in

the Burnaby Hospital for twenty-one years, and in 1978 underwent successful open heart surgery. Kay and Al have two sons; Jerry (1950) a mechanic and manager for Imperial Oil. He is married to Sherry Russel and has one son. Dale (1951) is a mechanic and a fireman. He is married to Penny Darlington and has two daughters.

Mike was born in Edmonton in 1929. He attended Vermillion Valley School and then farmed with his family until 1955. He was then employed by the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool as a tester and grader until 1969. He married Marion Miciak of Bruce. Marion became employed by Foran Agencies in 1957, and remained there until 1975. During this time the business changed hands several times, and is now known as Thor Agencies. For a time Mike worked for Cornwood Wireline at Zama Lake. In 1975 Mike and Marion moved to Edmonton where they still reside.

Nick, born in Edmonton in 1933, attended Vermillion Valley and Holden Schools. He worked on the family farm for a time and enjoyed curling, hunting and fishing. He then worked on the oil rigs for several years and in a steel mill in Edmonton. In 1959 he married Annie Tchir, who was employed with Zellers. They now own a flower shop in Edmonton where they both work.

Peter, a twin was born in 1934. He rode horseback to Vermillion Valley School where Miss Mary Mulick was one of his teachers. He then began farm-



Back Row: John and Harry. Middle Row: Nick, Tom Lozowski, Mike, Jim and Peter.

ing with Harry. They cropped about 300 acres and Peter helped his mother in caring for chickens and turkeys. They also milked cows and raised a lot of hogs. Peter married Shirley Bobyak in 1962. Their daughter Cheryl was born in 1963. She attended Holden School and then trained as a hairdresser and is now employed in Edmonton. Their son, Greg was born in 1967. When he started school in Holden his teacher was Mrs. Mary Laskoski (nee Mulick). Greg enjoys all sports and has been a regular contributor to the Holden Agricultural fair, to date winning a total of 250 ribbons. Dean was born in 1976 and Chantel in 1982. Peter had a farm auction in 1975 and has worked on construction at Inuvik and locally.

Andrew (Jim) is Peter's twin, and he also attended Vermillion Valley School. When he completed his schooling he worked with his brothers on the family farm for a time. Jim enjoyed the sport of coyote hunting on horseback and using greyhounds. He also enjoyed playing hockey. At the age of seventeen he began working for the C.N.R. at Bruce, and has been with them for twenty-five years. In 1960 he married Jean Franus and they live in Bruce. They have two sons. Rodney, born in 1964 is also employed with the C.N.R., Rick, born in 1967 attends Holden School. Rick and Jim also farm three quarters of land near Bruce.

Tkaczyk, Fred by Donald Tkaczyk

Fred Tkaczyk born in 1909 son of Onisko and Teodosia Tkaczyk. Fred attended the Vermillion Valley School, walking a distance of three and a half miles. He finished school at the age of fifteen, with a



Front Row: Fred and Julia Tkaczyk and children Milton, Wilfred, Joyce, Dwayne and Don 1980.

grade nine education. As a young man he worked on the family farm. At the age of twenty-two he met Julia Suchy of Haight, daughter of Harry and Nancy Suchy. Three years later in 1934, they were married in Mundare, at St. Peter and Paul Church.

In 1935 they bought the SE 26-48-16, three and half miles south of Holden and built a small house. With the help of neighbors they enlarged it in 1942.

Fred and Julia have five children: Joyce, Milton, Wilfred, and twins Dwayne and Donald. Joyce is married to Steven Stokowski, (see Steven Stokowski story). Milton who lives in Edmonton, works as a lab. chemist at the city water treatment plant. He married Joan Komarnisky of Holden, in 1964. Wilfred lives in Holden, and works for Blair Nelson Oil Field Construction, and also farms. He married Pearl Michalcheon of Willingdon in 1970. Donald lives on the farm (SE 26-48-16), and works for Cargill Grain Co. as assistant manager. Dwayne also lives on the farm and works for the County of Beaver maintenance department. Donald and Dwayne farm their land together four miles south of Holden, and live at home with their parents, Fred and Julia Tkaczyk who are retired from farming.

Tkaczyk, Onisko by Donald Tkaczyk

In 1902 Bill Tkaczyk came to Canada from Austria and settled on NE 10-48-16, south of Holden. His wife Katherine had passed away in Austria.



Teodosia and Onisko Tkaczyk 1928.

In 1904, Bill's son Onisko came to the district with his wife Teodosia and four children, Annie, John, Rosie and Peter. They homesteaded the NW 24-48-16. It was here they farmed and raised cattle for many years. He also worked part-time on the railroad near Strathcona. They raised five more children, Ed, Steve, Fred, Mary and Andrew.



Steve and Pete Tkaczyk 1928.

Annie married Luka Mulick (see their story). John married Mary Suchy. They farmed in the Holden, Bruce and Viking area. John passed away in 1978. Rosie was married to Joe Havres who was a tailor and they lived in Holden, where Rosie still resides. Peter and Steve presently reside in Holden. Fred married Julia Suchy (see Fred Tkaczyk history). Mary married Eric Oberg. They lived in Holden and Franchere, and presently reside in Edmonton. Ed passed away in 1979. Andrew, (see his story).

Onisko's father, Bill passed away in 1918 at the age of 73. Onisko passed away in 1932 at the age of 67. His wife Teodosia remained on the farm for twenty-five years until she passed away in 1957 at the age of 87. They are all buried in St. Mary's (South Holden) Cemetery.



John Tkaczyk on his Case tractor 1937.

Tkaczyk, Steve **by Donald Tkaczyk**

Steve, son of Mr. and Mrs. Onisko Tkaczyk was born in 1908 at their homestead. Steve attended school in Vermillion Valley to the age of fifteen. He helped his parents on the farm until the passing of his father in 1932. Two years later in 1934 he purchased the NW 26-48-16 and built a house. He began raising



Steve Tkaczyk.

sheep and was one of the biggest sheep ranchers in the area. A few years later he sold his sheep and went into the cattle business. Later he bought more land. In 1949 Steve sold his land and moved to Holden, where he worked for a gasoline bulk station for years. He then bought land near Bruce. As he liked to work with cattle he started a feed lot, buying and selling cattle. Presently living in Holden is enjoying carpenter work.

Tokar, John and Bessie

John Tokar was born in 1886 in the village of Maydan, Czart Kiw, Galicyn, Austria. He came to Canada in 1908.

Paranka Bessie Kushnir, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kushnir, was born in 1895, at the village of Sasnica, Yaroslaw, Galicyn Austria. She came to Canada in 1912, landed in Quebec City and arrived in Edmonton on May 25. They met and were married in 1914.

They started a grocery store in Beverly in 1917 which they had for ten years. In 1928, they bought a farm at Haight, Alberta. On this site they built a store which still stands today. The store was sold in 1948, at which time they moved to Edmonton. The farm was also sold in 1979.

John Tokar passed away in 1964. Bessie still resides in Edmonton. There were no children.



John and Bessie Tokar — 1914.



Bessie Tokar wearing dress made of little flags that came in cigarette packages in the early 1900's.

Trohimchuk, George

George and Louise (Stepaniec) Trohimchuk arrived in Canada in 1905 and 1903 respectively from Austria, met in Edmonton where they were both working and were married there. They struck out to become self-employed by settling on newly opened land (without buildings) in the Vilna district; but after about six years in 1916 they settled in the Holden area, three miles east and eight miles south of the townsite. They continued farming and Mr. Trohimchuk was also elected as Municipal Councillor for a six year period, with monthly meetings held in Viking.

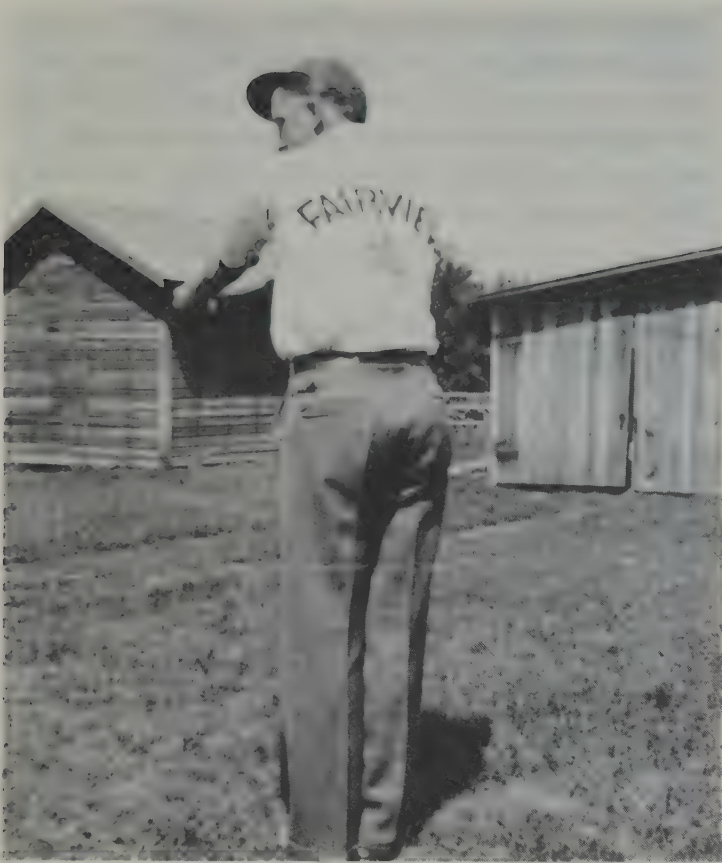


George and Louise Trohimchuk.

Their six children all attended the Fairview School. This school was two and half miles from their home, so over a period of eight or nine years, that was a lot of walking!

The eldest, Rose, spent years working in Edmonton at different occupations, and later she and husband William Archuk managed a grocery store and then an apartment building. Ann attended high school in Holden while living with the Tom Whites, Mr. White being the Mayor at that time. She worked as salesclerk and buyer for two different department stores in Edmonton and Calgary until she married Henry Hendrickson and they engaged in operating their own automobile business. Recently, Ann who is an avid golfer, attended several Ladies' Amateur Golf championships as National Handicap Chairman for a three year period. This definitely was a highlight.

Helen graduated from the Misericordia Hospital as a registered nurse in 1938, worked at several locations, and finally moved to Vancouver when her husband, John McNamee, who is employed with



Walter Trohimchuk in Fairview ball uniform.

C.P. Air, was transferred. She continued in her profession there, mostly as a special duty nurse.

Walter, who resided in the Holden area a number of years, was married to Ann Miskey from the Holden district. Later he worked in partnership at the IHC agency in Mundare, and still later at the Coral Bowl in Edmonton. As you would suspect Walter was an avid bowler. Their four children, Dianne Kirkland, Don, Chris and Terry, all reside in Edmonton.

Estelle (Stella) received a Secretarial Diploma at Alberta College in 1940, and has worked in that capacity except when residing in Victoria, B.C. for two years, and with another ten year respite. Her husband David Anderson was stationed for five years with the Royal Canadian Navy (WW2) at West coast points, and upon discharge was employed with the City of Edmonton for many years, becoming Chief Meter Reader. Estelle is employed at present with Transport Canada. Their two children, Penny Hunter and Douglas are both U. of A. graduates.

Kay (Kathryn) attended high school in Holden, staying in residence at the School Dorm. She then went to Edmonton to further her education scope at Alberta College, and was employed many years by the Provincial and Federal governments; presently at Employment and Immigration Dept. Kay met and married her husband, Blaine Ward, in the 40's. He served four years with the Canadian Army (49th Reg.) in Great Britain, continental Europe and central Europe.

Twait, Chris

by Georgina Campbell

Chris Twait was born in Norway and immigrated to Montana while still a very young man. He later came on horseback to the area east of Holden where he took up farming. In the early 1930's he married Etta, a housekeeper for two neighbour bachelors, Sandy Thompson and Kenny McLennan. They lived on the farm until Chris's death in 1954.



Etta and Chris Twait.

Tymchak, Alex

by Anne Tymchak

Alex was born in the Krakow district, son of Tekla and Luka Tymchak. He moved with his family to the Holden district in 1929 and attended Marconi school. As a young man he worked in the hard rock mines in B.C. In 1946 he became engaged in farming six miles east of Holden.

He married Anne (Block) Komarnisky in 1963 at which time he took up residence in the village of Holden. He continued farming and was joined in the farming operation by his step-son, Barry Komarnisky.

Alex passed away in 1980. Anne continues to reside in their home on 49th Ave. and still maintains an interest in the farm which is now operated by her son Barry.

Tymchak, James (Jim) and Minnie

James was born in 1925 to a farming couple Luka and Wasylyna (Mackoruk) Tymchak in the postal district of Krakow, Alberta northwest of Mundare. During his preschool years the family moved to a farm north of Holden, where Jim presently resides. He obtained all his schooling in the local school of



James Tymchak family: Richard, Marilyn, Minnie, Jim and Bernice.

Marconi. After completing his eighth grade he continued to farm with his parents.

In 1946 he married Minnie, daughter of Nick and Annie (Jacula) Puk, a neighboring couple. Jim and Minnie continued to farm with Jim's parents and eventually took over the farm. To this marriage was born one son and two daughters, Richard, Marilyn and Bernice.

Jim took an active interest in community affairs serving on numerous boards and committees.

Minnie took her schooling in the Myroslaw School and after her marriage also took her turn in serving on church and community committees.

Richard (1947-1977) the oldest of the family, after completing his schooling in Holden took a course at the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He then joined his father in the farming enterprise. In 1975 he married Susan Komarnisky and they had two children Wade and Jill.

Marilynn (1951) attended school in Holden, and then took a course at Alberta College in Edmonton. In 1971, after working for a while with an Edmonton law firm she married Larry Strilchuk. They have two children, Clayton and Leah.

Bernice (1956) the youngest of the family also attended school in Holden, and then went on to the University of Alberta where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree. At present she holds a position with the C.N.R.

Tymchak, Luka

Luka Tymchak was born in the western Ukraine in 1879. Being a member of a large peasant family,

opportunities were few and his younger years were spent working on the land. In 1901, being under Austrian rule at that time, he was inducted into the Austrian army and served for three years, stationed in Austria. After being discharged from the army in 1904, he lived with his parents for a short time.



Luka Tymchak.

In 1905 he married Tekla Lysakowski and they started building up a place of their own. In the spring of 1907, leaving his homeland, a young wife and an unborn child, he sailed for Canada. Although he did not speak English when he first immigrated, his fluency in both Ukrainian and Polish, as well as a limited knowledge of the German language which he picked up during his army days, he was able to manage well enough to get by. He worked in numerous lumber and railway camps in Ontario for two years, and in 1909 he headed for Alberta where he knew many of his country folk had settled. That winter he filed his claim on a homestead (S.W. 14-60-18) in the Smoky Lake district. In the spring of



Tekla Tymchak.

1910 his wife and young son migrated to Canada to join him, and they proceeded to build a new life in their chosen land.

Ten years later, now with a family of two boys and three girls, Luka and his wife sold the homestead and bought a half a section of land in the Krakow postal district northwest of Mundare. That spring the couple were blessed with a set of twins, a boy and a girl.

In 1924 tragedy beset the family when Luka's wife Tekla passed away after a lingering illness (1888-1924). Later that year after a hectic summer, Luka married Wasylyna Mackoruk (1896-1980) who emigrated from the Ukraine in 1923. To this union were born two more children, a boy and a girl.

During his early farming years in Alberta, Luka served on numerous boards as well as a term on municipal council. With family needs increasing, Luka and the family sold the farm in 1928 and bought a large farm north of Holden, known as the Orville Thompson farm, to which they moved in the spring of 1929. The depression set in shortly after, and making payment as well as a living got to be a struggle at times. As the years went by and the

economy improved, Luka was able to do a bit of travelling. He remained in fairly good health and was able to enjoy his later years. He lived on the family farm almost to the time of his passing in 1974.

At the time of his death the family consisted of his wife, Wasylyna, four sons and four daughters: Tony (1907-1980) was married to Frances Suchy (1915-1962). He later married Katie Miskiw. John is married to Mary Shmirko. Alex (1926-1980) was married to Anne Komarniski. Jim is married to Minnie Puk, Mary (Mrs. Peter Suchy), Pearl (Mrs. Sam Babiy), Ann (Mrs. Mark Kolodychuk) and Emily Tymchak. Luka was predeceased by a daughter, Cassie Trochymchuk Roshko in 1951, and two infant twin sons, Peter and Phillip.

Tymchak, Anthony (Tony)

Tony, son of Luka and Tekla Tymchak was born in 1907 in a small village in Western Ukraine. As an infant he immigrated to Canada with his mother. Here they joined his father who had already settled north of Smoky Lake.

In 1920 they moved south to an area called Krakow. They continued farming here until 1929, when the family moved to the Holden area settling on the farm where Jim Tymchak presently lives. There he lived and farmed with his father and the rest of the family.



Wasylyna Tymchak.



Frances and Tony Tymchak.

In 1935 Tony married Frances, daughter of Harry and Nancy Suchy, and continued farming adjacent to the home place. In 1940 Tony and Frances and their family moved to the village of Holden and lived in the house that Helen Stecyk presently occupies. Here Tony started a trucking business, hauling livestock to Edmonton. On many of his trips people would catch rides to Edmonton with him, and he often said that the company was much appreciated. Later he bought a gravel truck and continued trucking until 1951, when the family moved to a farm, four miles east of Holden. Here they lived until 1968 when he purchased the New Willingdon Hotel in Willingdon.

In 1969, nine years after the passing of his first wife Frances, Tony married Katie (Jakubec) Miskiw. Together with son Walter, they operated the hotel business. Tony lived and worked in Willingdon until the time of his passing in 1980.

Tony and Frances had five children, Walter, Alexander (deceased as an infant), Eileen (Mrs. Paul Rurka), Jerry and Darlene (Mrs. John Ezio).

Umrysh, Fred and Anna **by Emily Chrystian**

Fred was born in 1871 in the village of Dzwennat, county of Chortkiw, West Ukraine. Anna (Chwihun) was also born in 1871. They were married in 1897 at Chortkiw, West Ukraine.

Fred, Anna and their two daughters Katherine and Nancy immigrated to Canada in 1902. They landed in Halifax, then took a train west which brought them to Mundare. Here they stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Zaseybida and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Fun-

dytus, for about one year. Then Grandfather went walking to Strathcona (South Edmonton) to get some information on a homestead. When he got there they gave him a guide to help him find one. The homestead that he filed on was southeast of Edmonton (later known as the Holden area) on N.E.-4-48-16 in 1903.

When the grandparents moved to their homestead, Mr. Zaseybida gave them two oxen and a sack of wheat. When they arrived there they built a house of logs, plastered with clay and a sod roof. In 1905, their first son, Mike was born.

Grandfather worked for many years on the Canadian National Railway. When he started to work, he had to walk all the way to Calgary. In 1906, when grandfather left for work, in the spring he didn't return until October. Once while Grandfather was out working, the family ran out of food for three days, and were unable to go get any. A neighbor dropped in to see how they were, and seeing that they were out of food he returned home and brought enough food to last them a week, when Grandfather returned.

In 1907, a second son, John, was born. Trees were chopped during the winter months, so that they would have some land to cultivate in the spring. After the land was cultivated, wheat was spread by hand, and willow branches were used as harrows to make the land smooth.

In 1908 Grandfather traded his oxen for horses in Edmonton and also their third son Bill was born.

The closest post office was Scona, three miles away and Grandmother walked once a week to get the mail. She also carried wheat to Danylak's, a mile



Mike, John, Fred, Metro, Anna, Nancy Umrysh, Mary Ozubko, Anna Danilak, Anne Malowany. Standing behind. Tillie Tkaczyk, Stella Tkaczyk.



Back Row: Metro, Mike, John and William Umrysh. Front Row: Mary Umrysh, Nancy Paskoski, Pauline Umrysh and Ethel Umrysh.

south from the homestead to grind for flour. The wheat was ground by a millstone. Grandfather and three neighbors would get together and walk to Wetaskiwin for their food supplies.

In 1910 a fourth son, Metro, was born. Then tragedy struck the family and they lost three children as a result of the flu, a daughter Katherine thirteen years old, and two sons, Bill two years old, and Metro, an infant.

In 1914 Grandfather purchased the N.E.-9-48-16. After the drainage ditch went through the land, there was still so much water and the drainage taxes were more than the quarter of land was worth. So he gave it up after ten years. Now this land is owned by son William and grandson Dale.

Grandfather did his part in building the first log church (St. Mary's South Holden) in 1906, and the present one in 1916, in the form of labour and donations. His oldest son Mike hauled lumber and rocks for the foundation. Grandfather was on the church board for many years and the annual meetings were held in their home.

After the tragic loss of their first sons, they were blessed with two more, so they gave them the same names, Metro in 1912, and Bill (William) in 1914.

They built a new house in 1917 and the labour cost was \$300.00. It was built by the same contractor that built St. Mary's Church in 1916, an Irishman, by the name of Mr. Sanquist. The house is still being lived in by their son, John.

In 1922, Grandfather had an accident which incapacitated him for awhile. He was taking grain to town

one day and he got very cold. So he decided to walk behind the horse, and as he was getting off the wagon he slipped and fell and the wheel ran over his foot and broke it. He was found by Mike Bobyak who also was hauling grain. From that time on he used a cane for support.

All the children attended Scona School. Grandfather and Grandmother were blessed with two daughters and six sons.

Katherine was born in Chortkiw, West Ukraine. She was four years old when she came to Canada. In 1910 she passed away.

Nancy, was born in Chortkiw, West Ukraine. She was two years old when she came to Canada. In 1921 she married William Paskoski and they had nine children. (see William Paskoski history)

Mike born at Holden, in 1935, married Mary Chrystian and they had five daughters. (see Mike Umrysh history)

John was born at Holden. In 1939 he married Ethel Poshtar and they had seven children. (see John Umrysh history)

Bill passed away in 1910.

Metro passed away in 1910.

Another son, Metro, was born at Holden in 1912. (see Metro Umrysh story)

Bill (William) was born at Holden, in 1914. In 1952 he married Pauline Yarmoloy and they have four children. (see William Umrysh story)

There was one experience that was quite interesting. It was one hot day when Grandfather and his youngest daughter Nancy, were going to town. As they went along, they came to a slough. Instead of the oxen going around the slough they went into the water to get away from the horse flies. Grandfather tried very hard to get them out, but he couldn't, so he got off the wagon and told his eight year old daughter to stay in the wagon while he walked to town. In the meantime the oxen were all rested up and free from the flies, so they came out of the water and started to graze along the slough, with Nancy sitting in the box watching them. Along came a neighbor, who also was going to town, and saw this child sitting in the wagon box alone. He stopped and asked her what happened and Nancy told him. So he took her with him to town. In the meantime Grandfather came back and found the oxen out of the water but no trace of Nancy. His first idea was she fell off and drowned. He was quite upset.

When the neighbor and Nancy came to town they found out that Grandfather had already left. So they went back to see if they could find him. When they arrived, they found him very sad and down hearted. Of course, seeing his daughter safe made him feel much better.

Grandmother passed away in 1945 and Grandfather in 1954. They and their children are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, South Holden.

If they were presently living they would be proud of their 70 descendants, 8 children, 25 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren.

Umrysh, John by Christine Umrysh

John, second son of Anna and Fred Umrysh, was born at his parents' homestead nine miles south of Holden in 1907. John received his schooling at Scona School. He started farming with his father at an early age, and also worked for different farmers in the area.

In 1939, John was married to Ethel, daughter of Mike and Mary Poshtar (nee Rogalski), who lived north of Haight. She was born in 1915 and took her education at Moscow School. They took up residence at his parents' farm.



Back Row: Peter Chrystian, Debbie Sass, Bill Sass, Annette Chrystian, Sheila Umrysh (holding daughter Sandra), Jim Sutherland (holding son Michael). Centre: Kevin Umrysh and Colleen Sass. Sitting: John and Ethel Umrysh.

Joan, born in 1946, worked for A.G.T. and in 1974 she married James Sutherland from Red Deer. They have one son, Michael. Jim and Joan operate an automotive centre in Fort St. John, B.C. where they reside.

James (Jim), born in 1953, resides in Edmonton and works for water and sanitation for the City of Edmonton as a truck driver.

Raymond, born in 1956, married Shelia Hardowa of Edmonton and they have two children: Kevin and Sandra. Raymond works for water and sanitation for the City of Edmonton as a foreman and resides in Spruce Grove. Raymond and his brother Jim have taken over the farming operation from their father.

I, Christine, born in 1960 am single and reside in Edmonton. I work for Workers Compensation Board as a medical stenographer.

Emily and Elizabeth attended Scona School for four years, then they were bussed to Holden, where they finished their high school. Joan, Jim, Raymond and Christine took all their education at Holden.



John Umrysh family. Standing: Ray, Elizabeth, Christine, Joan, Emily and Jim. Sitting: John and Ethel.

John and Ethel have retired after 43 years of farming but still reside on the farm. They were blessed with seven children: Bernice, Emily, Elizabeth, Joan, James, Raymond and Christine.

Bernice, born in 1940, passed away in 1941 at the age of four months.

Emily, born in 1941, married Peter Chrystian and they have one daughter, Annette, and they reside on a farm at Holden. (see Peter Chrystian story).

Elizabeth, born in 1943, worked for Canadian Industries Limited at Edmonton as a secretary. In 1967 she married William Sass of Saskatchewan and they have two daughters Debbie and Colleen. They now reside in Kelowna, B.C. where William is a licensed mechanic.



John Umrysh with tobacco leaves that were raised in the '30's by his dad. They were found in the old building.

Umrysh, Metro

Metro, the fifth son of Fred and Anna Umrysh, was born in 1912 in the Scona area. He attended Scona and Palmer School. In 1922, Metro went to Palmer School for one year, hoping to pick up some Norwegian language, also any of the students learned the Ukrainian language from Metro.

In 1933 he bought a quarter of land the S.E.-1-49-16 from the C.P.R. He farmed with horses till 1949, when he bought a 44 Massey-Harris tractor.

In the forties, Metro worked in the bush camp at Breton, for a couple of years, during the winter



Metro Umrysh.

months. Then later he worked in Edmonton for a window and cabinet company.

In 1955 he bought a swather and did custom work.

In 1976 he sold his farm to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hallett and moved to Holden, where he presently resides at 5340-50 Ave. Metro has remained a bachelor, not wanting to be tied down by matrimony.

Umrysh, Mike

Mike Umrysh was born in 1905, in the Scona district south of Holden. He is the oldest son of Fred and Annie Umrysh and grew up in this area. As a young man he worked out at many different jobs, as times were hard and money scarce. In 1928 he purchased a quarter of land from John Danilak (N.W.

4-48-16). On this land he, with the help of his brother, cleared the entire area by hand to make it a producing farm land. Mike then purchased more land in 1932, near Holden, (S.P. N.W. 1-49-16) on which he built a home.



Mary and Mike Umrysh on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, 1960.

In 1935 Mike married Mary Chrystian from the Likeness district. Mary is the oldest daughter of Kost and Annie Chrystian and grew up in this area. To this marriage five daughters were born, Lena, Helen, Marjorie, Jeany and Gladys.

In 1944 Mike and Mary built a new house and two years later (1946) they purchased more land from C.N. S.E.-14-49-16 and S.W. 14-49-16. Then in 1960 more land was purchased from Lillian McLeod, S.W. 1-49-16.

Lena married Lloyd Warwa and they have three



The Umrysh children — Lena, Gladys, Helen, Marjorie and Jean.

children Karren, Joanie and Rocky, which are all married and living in Edmonton.

Helen married Lawrence Zyla, they had two girls, Brenda and Cindy. Helen was deceased on Dec. 25, 1970. Her family resides in Edmonton.

Marjorie married Russell Kostyshen and they had six children, Valerie, Beverly, Shirley, Ricky, Joyce and Holly. Beverly was deceased in 1978. Russell was deceased in 1980. They all reside in Edmonton.

Jean married Billy Gresko and have a son Rodney. They reside in Glendale, California.

Gladys married Lawrence Vioncek and they have two children, Maryjane and Michael. They reside in Daysland area.

Mike and Mary also have two great grandchildren. Mike and Mary farmed until 1974, when they retired and moved to Camrose, where they now reside.

Umrysh, William

I was born in 1914 in the Scona district, the youngest in the family of eight children. I lived on a farm and attended Scona School. After I quit school I worked on the farm and in the winter months of 1945-1947 I went to work at the Ryley Coal Mine. In 1948 I bought land from Frank Mulowka and Leo Hladilo and started to farm on my own.

In 1952 I married Pauline Yarmoloy. We have four children and they all attended Holden School. Diane, is married to Riley Waters and has two boys Mickey and Mark. She works at Northland Coliseum and

Riley works for the Water Department of the City of Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton. Violet, is married to Calvin Rekydal and she is an assistant supervisor for Ice Pedler. Calvin is an asbestos worker for Local 110. They reside in Edmonton. Dennis, is married to Marline Sarafinchin and he is a journeyman for glass works, employed at P.P.G. Industries. His wife Marline is an accounts clerk employed at Seattle First Bank of Canada. They also live in Edmonton. Dale is farming with his parents.

Van Ruskenveld, Lucien and Family by Lucien Van Ruskenveld

At the end of a five and a half year period in the R.C.A.F., in 1945 I returned to Holden. During the war my brother Maurice had acquired for me a lot on main street, north of the "Post Office". On this location I had a store built and called it "Radio-Electric". I sold and repaired electrical appliances and engaged in an electrical contracting business. As saleslady and helper in the store I hired Alice Ogrodnick, and through her I met my wife Olga, daughter of Bill J. and Annie Rurka. We were married in 1950. A year later my wife presented me with a beautiful little girl we named Yvonne. A short time later I had another store built on the north east corner, across from the Royal Bank. My first place of business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Hank Tiedemann. However, it seems I was not destined to keep living in Holden. After seven years I decided I needed a change. I applied and got a job with the Federal Government as an "Electronic Technician", and moved my family to Ottawa in 1952. The second store was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Chupka.

In 1956 Olga again treated me with the gift of another lovely little daughter we called Naomi. The job I had with the Department of National Defence proved to be varied, challenging and very interesting. Before I knew it, after twenty-five years of service I had reached the age of retirement in 1976.

Our daughter Yvonne graduated from the University of Ottawa with a B.Sc. Honour Degree in Geology. She is residing in Ottawa, and is married to Robert Whillans, a geologist. They are both working for the Canadian Government. Upon retirement Olga and I moved to Campbell River, on Vancouver Island, B.C. Naomi our second daughter graduated from University of Alberta in Edmonton with a B.Sc. Degree in Geography and is now employed by "Dome Petroleum" in Calgary.

We get a good deal of rain here in Campbell River, but the climate is much milder than Ottawa or Alberta, and the scenery, beachcombing and fishing is just grand. Another bonus, we are close enough to Holden to visit there fairly often.



William Umrysh family: Pauline, Bill holding Dale, Diane, Dennis and Violet.

Van Ruskenveld, Oscar and Family by Lucien Van Ruskenveld

Oscar Van Ruskenveld along with his wife Leona and their two sons, Maurice and myself, Lucien, disembarked on Canadian soil in Quebec City in 1926. Residents of Brussels, Belgium, we had boarded the Canadian Pacific ship "Minnedosa", at Antwerp. Dad was a joiner by occupation and worked for the Belgian Railroad Co. At that time there was a bit of a war scare, also the C.P.R. was advertising for people to come to Canada. We somehow got a hold of



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Van Ruskenveld.

beautifully illustrated literature about Canada, and thought it would be a great adventure to come to this country. Father, then 43 years old, secure in his job and life routine, certainly was not anxious to leave his native land. However, Maurice and I enlisted Mother's support, and between the three of us convinced him to make the move, for what he thought a period of five to ten years!

The first year we all worked for farmers in western Canada. For the next few years we rented farms in Waldeck, Saskatchewan. Driven out by drought and grasshoppers we moved to Alberta, where again we rented a farm north-east of Westlock. In the fall of 1936, father was tired of renting, had a sale, and we moved to Edmonton for the winter. In the spring of 1937 the whole family moved to Holden where dad had bought a three quarter section farm one mile north of town. In 1940, I left for Toronto having enlisted in the R.C.A.F., and was not to return home until the end of August 1945. The family expanded their farming operations and Maurice also acquired the I.H.C. dealership. In 1943 Maurice married Edna



Mr. and Mrs. Ruskenveld Sr., 1958.

Nelson, and raised three sons and one daughter (see their story).

Dad and mother eventually moved into Holden where they lived until moving to Westlock with Maurice and the family.

Father died in 1972 at the age of 89, Mother died in 1973 at the same age.

Van Scoonhoven, John

John Van Scoonhoven, came from the States and homesteaded in the Sandstorm district (N.W. 22-47-16) in 1903. He left in 1916 and moved to the Peace River country.



John Van Schoonhoven.

Wear, Frank and Family by Doug Wear

Frank Wear came from Gilmingtton, New Hampshire, U.S.A., where he farmed for a number of years.

Frank bought C.P.R. land six miles south of Holden in 1913. He moved his family to the farm in June, 1914 (Sec. 15-48-16-4). By the spring of 1914, a

house was built and a barn partly built. There were no fences or other improvements at this time. He hired thirty acres of land broke and plowed, and this was the beginning.

We had to get our milk and eggs from the neighbors for the first little while, and then we got a milk cow and some chickens of our own. Then eventually we dug a well for drinking water. We shot a lot of ducks, geese, and prairie chickens during the first year, for food and feathers.

In 1915 Frank Wear went to Ontario and purchased 10 Holstein cows and one bull. This was our start in the dairy business. Frank was a very public-spirited person. He was always trying to help improve the district or community in which we lived. At one time he was the chairman of five or six organizations at one time.

In 1915, Charles, the oldest living son joined the Canadian Army. He was gone overseas until 1920. Dad and my younger brothers and sisters had to do the farming. Dad could not stand the dust from the threshing of the grain. He got asthma, which later turned into pneumonia, and he passed away between Christmas and New Year's in 1923.

There were many interesting things that happened over the years that were spent in the Holden district. They were too numerous to mention in this short space. We met and made many good friends in the Holden district.

The Wear Family then rented the Gaylie farm until 1927 and then moved to Coronation, Alberta. They settled there and farmed there until 1977. Then the farm was sold and I moved into Coronation where I still live.

Webb, Robert

In 1905 William Henry Webb came to the Holden area from Vassar, Michigan with sons Delbert and Robert and daughter Olive. They homesteaded in the



Robert and Hilda Webb, Grandma Moberg and Webb children — 1927.

Fairview School district on section 4-48-15. Delbert passed away in 1907 at the age of eighteen years. William Webb served in the Canadian Army overseas during W.W.I.

In the year 1915, Robert Webb married Hilda Moberg, who immigrated to Canada from Malmö, Sweden in 1912. With the exception of a brief period of time when Robert and Hilda lived in Millet and Edmonton, they lived and farmed in the Fairview School district, two miles north of William Webb's homestead until Robert passed away in 1954. Hilda then lived in Bruce until her death in 1965.



Leander Moberg, taken on his farm in 1915.

Robert and Hilda had five children: Linnea, Gladys, Robert, Delbert and Henry.

Linnea married Lyall Stambaugh. They have one son, Lyall Alvin. Their daughter passed away at birth. Lyall and Linnea farmed in the Bruce area from 1937 until 1956 when they moved to Edmonton where they have lived since that time. After arriving in Edmonton, Lyall worked for Jenner Motors until his retirement in 1981. Linnea worked at the Good Samaritan Lodge from 1967 until her retirement in 1979. Their son Alvin married Donna Hays. They live in St. Albert, and have a daughter and a son.

Gladys married Elmer Davis. They lived in Bruce for a number of years where Elmer managed his own garage before moving to Edmonton in 1951 where they presently reside. Elmer managed a garage for several years before working for Gopher Engine Rebuilders where he worked until his retirement in 1981. Gladys worked for Shipley's Photo Studio for several years, at an Imperial Oil Restaurant and finally, at the McQueen Senior Citizens Lodge until her retirement in 1980.

Gladys and Elmer have three children: Elinor, Maxine and Robert Elmer. Elinor married James Urlacher. They reside in Edmonton and they have four children. Maxine married Richard Campbell. They have four children living and two deceased. They reside in Edmonton. Robert Elmer married Loretta Felicitas. They reside in Edmonton and have two sons.



Bob and Hilda Webb — 1945.

Robert Webb married Dorothy Jones. They are divorced. They have no family. Robert worked for Hingley Roofing in Edmonton for a number of years. He then went to the Yukon where he worked as head cook in a construction camp until his retirement in 1980. He now makes his home at Whitecourt, Alberta. Robert served in the Canadian Army during World War II.

Delbert E. Webb married Doreen Franklin of London, England. They returned to England to live in 1948. Delbert passed away in 1958. They had no children. Delbert served overseas with the Edmonton Regiment during World War II.

Henry E. Webb married Marion Malcolm. Henry served in the R.C.A.F. in aircrew during World War II. He was a grain buyer for the Pioneer Grain Co. from 1946 to 1947. He then worked for the Canadian National Railways serving as agent-operator at a number of stations in Alberta and Saskatchewan until his appointment to management in 1963. He retired in 1980 after completing 33 years service for the C.N.R. Marion taught school for 30 years in various points in Alberta. She retired in 1980.

Henry and Marion live in Edmonton. They have four children: Brian, Naomi, Garth and Cherryl. Brian graduated from U. of A. with a B.F.A. (drama) degree in 1973. After more study and teaching, he



Bob Webb on his horse Flossie — 1912.

founded the Brian Webb Dance Company in Edmonton of which he is the artistic director. Naomi married Steven Kaliel. They are now divorced and they have no children. Garth married Mary Lou Riederer, and they live in Abbotsford, B.C. Cherryl married Rick Metcalfe. They have a son, and live in Edmonton.

Webb, William H.

by Olive (Webb) Augustine

My father, W. H. Webb, came to Alberta with his family; my two brothers, fourteen and twelve, and me, not yet four, and a housekeeper, Miss Bowman. We landed in Calgary in 1905. My brother Robert, Bob as he was known, is no stranger to Holden people, as he farmed in the Bruce district for years.

My father, Will Webb will be remembered by many in the Holden and Bruce districts, as he was always willing to lend a helping hand. Dad was in the 218th Irish Guards, and served in France. While he was overseas he was able to visit some of the Webb family in England. We were happy to have him return home from the war safely.

Werbiski, Peter and Mary

by Rev. Albert Werbiski

After a period of farming hardship in the Southern Alberta area of Manyberries, my parents loaded their earthly possessions onto a wagon, and with eight horses in tow, headed north. Much of that move was across open, isolated plain without roads. It took about two weeks, during which they stayed with settlers or in abandoned buildings along the way. They arrived in the Haight area in 1926. They finally settled on a quarter section of C.P.R. land across the

road, west from the home quarter of Arne and Lilly Grosland.

This quarter section from which they would attempt to make a living for the next 21 years, was a mass of bush and large sloughs. Peter Werbiski recalls: "There were 17 lakes on the place. One of my mares liked to go into one of these which was so deep that water was up to her neck." Peter and Mary got about the business of bringing this land under control, first building a two-roomed dwelling out of the logs found on the place, and then clearing enough land to begin seeding. It was hard work, but it was made less difficult through the help of the neighbors, who contributed much to the basic needs of the Werbiski family. There were people like the Groslands, where it seemed we were constantly borrowing either an implement or a ride to town (Holden) in their Essex. On the other line we could resort to the Kowalchuks, who lived to the west of us.

For a number of years it was difficult for us to find adequate water supply and we were obliged to haul water by stone boat and a couple of barrels from Groslands for the livestock.

One spring in the late '30s, Peter was injured by a runaway team. He would need to be laid up during seeding time. That crisis was met by a number of neighbors who dropped their own field work and covered the ground for us. They put in the crop in one day, getting our land seeded before theirs. This neighborliness had another fine feature about it. It seems that homes and farm sheds were never locked when the owners left to go to town. Anyone in need came in and borrowed and then conscientiously returned the item.

One of the biggest events of the year was harvest time, especially the "threshing time". Our outfit which threshed us year by year, consisted of the Twin City threshing machine owned by George Mathews, with Grosland's Case tractor to power it. There were eight teams to feed it. This was the season when as a youngster I would wake up to the rattle of the bundle racks arriving to start the day, long before sunrise. How well one remembers the tanned men who drove their fat, sleek teams onto the fields when the frost was still glistening on the stubble. Then there were the huge meals my mother would prepare to meet those healthy appetites. Most took two big helpings of meat and potatoes, washed it down with many cups of tea or coffee, then still managed to devour half a lemon meringue. I remember overhearing with pleasure the comments of these men extolling the merits of Mary Werbiski's plum and lemon pies. I joined the rank of these threshers when I was fourteen, and did so for five autumns until I moved into the city of Edmonton.

The children from our family, my two sisters, Zella and Leona, and I attended school alternately at Poe and Holmdene. The distance to school was the same, about four miles. We walked to school most of those years, sometimes finding ourselves on the road in an afternoon blizzard or a rainstorm. The highlight of our sporting activity was winning the volleyball and the softball cups. In 1942 Poe School, under the coaching of our teacher Miss Agnes Drozdowich, won the softball competition for the Holden School Division sweeping all comers including two roomed schools. This was held in Bruce that year. On the Poe school team there was Geraldine Yablinski, Millie Kolodaychuk, Louie Kolodaychuk, long George Nahrabeski, Bill Chupka, Harry Chupka, Edward Kozdroski, my sister Zella and I. We brought the cup back in the rumble seat of Joe Kassen's Chevy coupe.

The funniest incident out of my school days happened in Holmdene School during Mr. Byduza's tutelage, in the mid 30's. One of the lower classes were learning what different foods are made from. Stanley Howrish eagerly pipes up with some inside information on the manufacture of jelly. "I know what jelly is made from, teacher." Yes Stanley, you tell us. "It is made from horse manure," was the ready answer. The embarrassed Mr. Byduza was ready to discipline Stanley for what he thought was a smart aleck reply. But the boy was dead serious as he even gave the source of his knowledge. "But Fred Moroz said so!" defended Stanley. Fred Moroz was a hired man on the Howrish farm and which Grade 3 student would deny the genius of such down to earth education.

The big event of the Christmas season in those years was the Christmas Concert. People seen rarely always turned up at these events. I managed to get the plays with the charcoal faces. One such play was "**Charcoal & Midnight**" in which Mike Zowtuk starred with me.

Though the '30's were difficult times, those of us on the farm were able to resort to our gardens, poultry and livestock for food. I rode into the National Grain elevator on a load of oats with my father one day. The agent at the time was Johnny Jack. As my Dad drove the load over the scales he asked, "What's the price of oats today, Johnny?" "Well Pete, it's eight cents." "Eight cents! I think I'll take this load home and feed it to the pigs," and he did. Mother sold a can of cream each week to the Holden creamery and paid for the groceries at Liden's store. She got five cents a dozen for eggs. I look back with gratefulness at the storekeepers like Mr. Liden who carried our family on a charge account for a long time. We finally managed to get that account cleared but it must have been tough all around.

Every winter, my father would load up the best wheat in the granary onto a sleigh and drive his team to Mundare Flour Mill, a distance of 21 miles. The trip took about three or four days, but he would return with sacks of flour, bran and "wheatlets". It seemed that we never went without during the hungry 30's. There was plenty of good home baking to go around.

Another occasion which is memorable to me were the times that my parents would bundle up my two small sisters and me for the 8 mile ride to the Polish Catholic church near Haight. My father was well known in that church choir for his high tenor. Christmas Eve services were special. And our family, along with other families, pressed into the overflow at the little church for the Christmas midnight service. After the service many of the folk would gather at the nearby farm homes for all night festivities.

In 1947, after a series of crop failures due to frost and hail, my folks decided to sell out and move to the Vancouver, B.C. area. Both my father and mother found employment in the fish canneries at Steveston, on the Fraser River just south of Vancouver. Both have retired now and live in Clearbrook, B.C.

My oldest sister Zella, married to live in Tonasket, Washington for a number of years. She passed away in 1973 after losing a battle with a brain tumor. Her family of three girls live in the Bellingham-Seattle areas.

My youngest sister, Leona, is married to Orville Formo of Naicam, Saskatchewan and have a heavy duty truck repair shop in Clearbrook, B.C. where they live. Their two married sons and daughter live near them.

I moved from the farm in 1946 to find employment in Edmonton for a time. After completing a broadcasting course in 1948, I worked at Radio Stations in Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, and Saskatoon. Since 1957, I have been in church ministry in Saskatchewan and Alberta, with ten of those years (1961-1971) spent in Kenya, East Africa. I have just recently moved from Fort McMurray to Nanaimo, B.C. in a transfer to this coastal congregation. My wife, Lillian, is from Regina, Saskatchewan. We have four children, Tim, Marilyn, Patricia and Dan.

White, Joseph and Mary by Leo Maruszczyka

Joseph Herbert White, born in the Camrose district in 1904 was united in wedlock to Mary Maruszczyka in 1927 at Camrose, Alberta.

Mary was the oldest of the family of George and Julia Maruszczyka of Holden. She was born in 1905 on the homestead on Vermilion Creek, east of what is now the town of Holden. Mary was educated at the

Holden School and Alberta College in Edmonton, then worked as a stenographer for the Holden Creamery in 1923 and later for Thomas White, a Holden barrister. She was also employed by the Alberta Hotel in Vegreville and a grocery store in Loughheed.

Mary played on the lady's basketball team with the Holden Athletic Association while they were a strong winning team in the early 1920's.

Joe and Mary farmed in the Camrose district for a short time, then in 1928, Mary's father gave her a quarter section of land in the Talbot district; the S.E. ¼ 35-48-16, now owned by David Maruszczyka. Joe also had the next quarter on the north side for a time; the S.E. ¼ 35-48-16 now owned by Trans-Alta Utilities.



Joe White family. Joe, Jerene, Douglas, Donna and Mary.

They started farming there in 1928, living in the old yard site for a while, then moved the buildings and added some new structures to a different location beside Waskwei Creek at the northeast corner of the quarter.

Mary's father Geo. Maruszczyka had a small dam built on the creek to hold water deep enough to allow cutting ice in the winter, for storage for summer use in his butcher shop at Holden. The pond was very popular with the neighbors, what with swimming in the summer and skating in the winter. The steep banks of Waskwei Creek also made excellent downhill skiing and toboggan sliding.

About 1931 Joe opened a feed mill in Holden at the back of the lot now occupied by the Olsen and Armstrong Service Station, which he operated for a number of years before selling.

They were both popular with the West Holden Community Club; Joe with his violin and Mary on the piano or guitar. They supplied much of the music for the parties of the club.

Joe also operated a threshing machine for a few years in the district during the 1930's.

Mary spent her spare time driving about the district from Ryley to Bruce for several years, selling Avon products until they moved to Edmonton in 1940, where Joe worked for Aircraft Repair at the Municipal Airport until after the war. They then took over a White Rose Service Station at Brightview, Alberta.

Mary passed away while on a holiday with her mother at Helena, Montana in 1958.

Joe sold the service station in 1959 and moved to Wetaskiwin, working at various occupations until retiring to a cabin at Buck Lake, where he passed away in 1975 at the age of 71 years. Mary and Joe are both buried at Brightview.

They had a family of three children. Jerene, born in 1928, attended school at Talbot and Edmonton. She married and had two sons, Dale and Earl. She passed away in 1979 and was buried at Brightview.

Donna made her appearance in 1939. She attended school at Wetaskiwin, married and had three children, Glen, Lynette and Lauralee. At the present time she is an interior designer, living in Red Deer, Alberta.

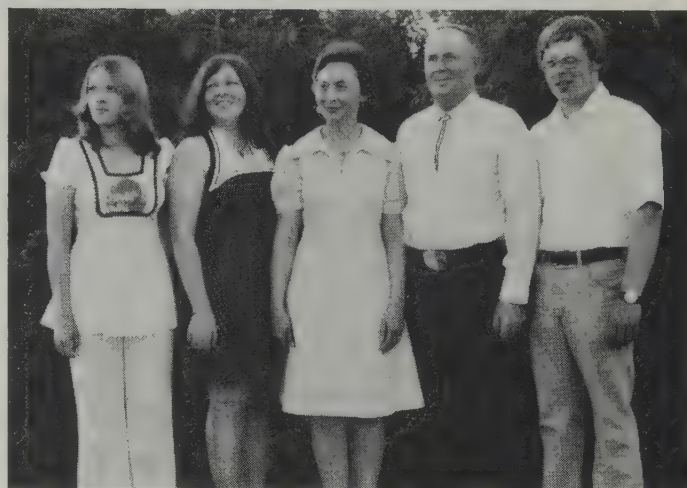
Douglas was born in 1941 in Edmonton. He received his education at Wetaskiwin, worked with heavy equipment and later as a truck driver. Douglas is married, has one son Kevin, and lives at Beaumont, Alberta.

begin farming in the West Bruce district on S½-22-48-15.

He married Olive Muriel Burman of Ottawa in 1921 in the Holden United Church parsonage by Reverend Stanley R. Hunt. As the newly wedded minister and his wife Margaret had just arrived in Holden, and not yet unpacked; their vows were said before an altar of packing boxes covered with a table cloth.

Together the couple raised three children Elwood, Arthur and Muriel. (Two children died — Leonard at twelve years — Kenneth at twelve days.)

Leonard was a trustee on the West Bruce School board for a time and Olive was active with the Bruce

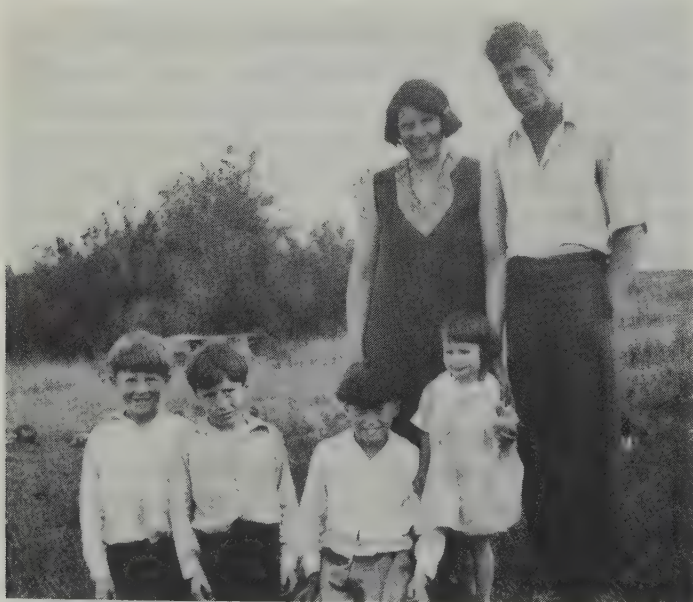


Linda, Susan, Selma, Art and Alan Willans, 1975.

Willans, Leonard

by Muriel Lyons

Leonard Willans was born in 1896 in Ottawa, Ontario. A veteran of Vimy Ridge, he came west in 1919, after service overseas of three years. Arriving at Holden with his brother Arthur, also a veteran, to



Leonard and Olive Willans, Arthur, Leonard Jr., Elwood and Muriel, 1932.



Leonard and Olive Willans 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1971.

Women's Institute for many years. She also helped friends at the birth of their children. Neighbours worked together, butchering, threshing, and cutting firewood for winter. The Willans children attended West Bruce School where Elwood was janitor for the last few years he attended.

Len tells of serving as undertaker when his neighbour died, using his team and wagon as a hearse. He was simply doing what had to be done.

Remembered are the home made ice cream sessions. Ollie said "the neighbours could smell ice cream against the wind". Sunday afternoons were often "ball game and picnic fun" at their farm. They always had a huge garden and lovely flowers to share.

The Willans farmed in this district until 1940 when Len left to serve in the army in Canada and overseas for six years. Elwood and Arthur joined his unit for about three of those years serving in England, Italy and Northwestern Europe.

Leonard was awarded the "Oak Leaf," — meaning he was mentioned in dispatches, and also in May 1948 he was presented with the British Empire Medal during an investiture at Vermilion, by the then Governor General of Canada, Viscount Alexander.



Edward and Muriel Lyons and family: Muriel and Edward, Linda and Curtis, Gail and Lorne Booth, Cheryl, Darryl and Loretta. Front Row: Brian and Catherine Lyons, Brenda Booth, Jennifer Lyons and Kendall Booth.

Len was postmaster for Ryley for seventeen years, twelve of those as Police Magistrate also. Ollie was assistant postmistress for about twelve years. They retired to Nanaimo, B.C. in 1963, returning to Ryley in 1970 to be near family and friends.

The couple celebrated fifty years of marriage in 1971. Len is an Oddfellow Lodge member, honorary board member of Calvin United Church, Ryley, and life member of the Royal Canadian Legion #256 at Nanaimo, B.C.

Olive passed away in 1980 at the age of eighty years, after living in the Parkland Nursing Home for five years.

Leonard is now a guest in the Sherwood Park Nursing Home where he enjoys visits from family and friends. He does a lot of typing and reading; a row of plants in the window sill show the love of a "green thumb". He celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday last December.

Leonard's brother Arthur, was born in Ottawa and came west with Leonard in 1919 after overseas service to farm together for a short time. He set up an insurance business in Bruce, and later married Anne B. Stewart. They moved to Langley B.C. in 1932, and raised two children, John and Barbara. Arthur passed away, and Anne resides in Langley.

Willisko, Mike and Sophie

Mike Willisko and Sophie Zoroslak were married in 1927. They purchased and lived on the Somers' land (N.E. 11-47-16), in the Reward school district, south of Holden. Mike originally lived in the Hay Lakes area. They had a family of four sons, Wilfred, Vincent, Rudolf and Leonard, who attended Reward School for a short time and then Sandstorm. For their high school education they attended Holden School. In 1952 the family moved to the Bawlf-Daysland district.



Sophie and Mike Willisko, 1928.

Mike passed away in 1975 and Sophie presently resides in Smoky Lake.

Wilfred is married and lives in Calgary. Their three children are Cordelle, Jim and Darrel.

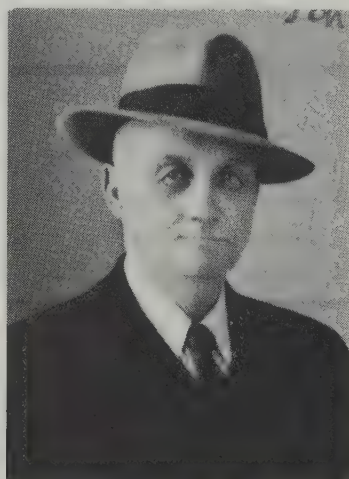
Vincent and his wife Amelia live in Edmonton. They have a son Terry and a daughter Melody.

Rudy is married and lives in Smoky Lake. His children are Jill, Danny and Bart.

Leonard and his wife live in Edmonton. Their two children are Tanya and Christopher.

Wohl Family

John Wohl born in 1872, emigrated from Norway near the end of the 1800's and spent several years in the U.S. Then, with Dinora Christianson whom he met and married in Minnesota, he went to Wetaskiwin first, where they spent a year, then to Holden in 1902. There he and his family farmed until the



John Wohl at 75 years of age.

early '40's when he moved into Holden and his son Minor carried on the farming operations for several years. Mrs. Wohl passed away in 1942, and John in 1954 at the age of 82. He was very well known for his friendliness and generosity, and was "John" even to all the kids in town. His son Minor, born in 1899 married Gertrude Stackhouse in 1937. They had two sons, Robert and James. In 1945 Minor and Gertrude left the farm and went to work in Edmonton. Minor passed away in 1957.

A brother, Forecast had left the farm when a young man and lived in Tacoma, Washington for many years. He passed away in the '60's. His widow Ida, still lives in Tacoma.

Della too, went to the States. She married Oscar Rolstad, and has one son Lauren who lives in Gig Harbor, Washington. Della is now married to Oliver Earl formerly of Bruce. They reside in the States.

Florence, the other daughter has lived at various places in Alberta, and has spent many years in the Peace River area, residing now in Dawson Creek.



Gathering at the Wohl home on the occasion of Gert's and Minor's wedding — 1937.

She is married to Ted Bartsch. They have two sons, Chris and Ted Jr. who were well known in Holden in their school days.

Woicichoski, Stanley and Annie by Stella Hnybida and Mary Howrish

Stanley Woicichoski came to Canada in 1912. He lived with his sister and brother-in-law, the Anton Komarniskys until he could find work. Any job that was available was taken to earn enough money to repay his passage.



Stanley and Annie Woicichoski on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Part time work on the railway and winter jobs cutting wood at a dollar a day, made Stanley secure enough money to propose marriage to Annie Laskosky. She too had immigrated to Canada, the land of opportunity. Stanley and Annie's first home was situated near the railway tracks in Holden. Here they spent the next sixty-five years. To them three children were born, Mary, Stella and a son, Albin. After much scrimping and saving, a larger home was built in 1928, on the same location, the luxury of gas and power was available.

Stanley, who was employed by the railway, was made section foreman, and proved he was a reliable and trusty worker. He took pride that he and his men could keep the tracks safe and in shape for the rolling trains.

In spite of railroading being a seven day a week job for a foreman, Stanley found time for his other interests, such as furniture making, gardening and farming. He took great pride in his apple trees that he grafted himself. His wife Annie, enjoyed various crafts, gardening and sewing for others.

Stanley and Annie always opened their home to those in need. During the deep depression many a "free rider" of the trains came begging for a bite to eat. No one was ever turned away. Many Liturgical Masses were held in their home for people unable to travel to distant churches. From these beginnings the parish of the Holy Ghost began.

With many regrets, life had to change. Stanley and Annie moved to the Vegreville Senior Citizens Lodge to spend their remaining years. Stanley passed away in 1978 at the age of ninety, followed by his wife in 1981. She was eighty-seven.

Woloschuk, Nick

by Carl Woloschuk

Nick was born to parents Klym Woloszczuk and Alexandra in Chornokunci Mali, West Ukraine in 1910. He was named originally Nykola Woloszczuk and later changed his name to read Nick Woloschuk.

He arrived in Canada in approximately 1922, landing in New York, then coming to Haight, Alberta by train. He attended Myroslaw School for about three years. Included in the family was one brother, Peter.

Nick met his future wife, Rose Chmiller, who was born in Naughton Glen, Alberta, in 1919. They were married in July of 1939, at Morecambe, Alberta, and moved to Haight where they farmed a half a section of land. In later years he also farmed land at Lavoy, which he later sold.

They had three sons, Carl, who now lives in Edmonton, and owns a plumbing firm. Ernest lives in Edmonton and works at St. Basil's Church. Dave lives in Edmonton and works as a plasterer. Patricia, married to Peter Dahoy, also lives in Edmonton.

Nick farmed until March, 1962, then moved to Edmonton where he worked at a variety of jobs until his passing in 1978.

Woloschuk, Peter

by Bonnie Woloschuk

Peter was born to parents Klym and Alexandra in Chornokunci Mali (West Ukraine), Austria, in 1900. His name was originally spelled Pitur Woloszczuk.



Peter Woloschuk working with team of horses, 1945.

He arrived in Canada in 1922, with his parents and only brother Nick, first landing in New York, then coming to Haight, Alberta by train. Since that time he farmed SE 1-51-16.

Peter met his wife to be in Mundare, and in 1943, Peter and Mary Fundytus were married. Mary was born in 1919 in Mundare. Peter and Mary had a family of three daughters, Eleanor, Gladys and Bonnie. Eleanor and Gladys attended their first years of schooling at Myroslaw School, and then attended Holden School, while Bonnie obtained her education entirely in Holden.

There are numerous happy memories of the pioneer days, but there is also the tragedy of the Woloschuk's first home burning down, with all of their valuables destroyed.

Peter passed away in 1981, at the age of 81. He was predeceased by his brother Nick in 1978.

Presently daughter Eleanor (Homeniuk) lives in Vegreville, and has four children. Gladys resides in Edmonton and has one child. Bonnie is continuing her education in Edmonton.

Wright, Chester John

by Laura (Wright) Tomko

We arrived in Holden, when my father was transferred with Calgary Power Ltd., from Calgary, in January, 1964. We moved into the John A. Giebelhaus home located one block south of the sports grounds. My mother started employment with the Royal Bank of Canada in May 1964. Jack started attending the Vegreville school for the retarded in Vegreville, immediately on our move to Holden, and I commenced school in Holden.

In 1966, we began a broiler chicken enterprise on the farm purchased from the Albert Peterson family.

The farm was located half a mile south of the main intersection of Highway 14. Many friends and family assisted in the “chicken round-ups” which always ended up in a good time for all, with plenty to eat and drink! (Just ask anyone; Mom and I were up before 4:00 a.m. rustling up bacon, eggs, pancakes, hash browns, etc. for the hungry mob to devour around 6:00 a.m.). This humble enterprise has now grown into the thriving Ewasiuk Chicken Ranch.

My maternal grandfather, George Gregus, resided with the family and assisted on the farm from 1965 to 1968. He not only assisted in our “bustling” chicken raising enterprise, but diligently assisted in the produce marketing that was supplied to the Holden Hotel Cafe by our farm.

In 1969 a partnership was formed with Dad, Stanley Robins and Dennis Cooper, to operate the “Blinkin’ Inn” located on Highway 14 just west of Jack’s Esso. The business was later sold to Ann Baraniuk.

Also in 1969, our family returned to the Village of Holden, and resided in the home owned by Alex Shehinski. We also purchased the old A.G.T. building located one block west of the cenotaph for the purpose of renovation and rental.

In 1970, my father resigned from Calgary Power Ltd. (after eighteen years of service) and became an active partner in Drayden Insurance and Accounting Ltd.; his partners being Armand Nielsen and Stanley Robins who had been one-time residents of Holden. In July of 1970, the family pulled up stakes, and moved to St. Albert, Alberta.

I remember being involved in classes for tap dancing, modern dance and baton twirling. Many was the time that I was able to participate in the Holden Farmer’s Day parade, doing my “stuff” as a baton twirler. Also, many happy memories of participation in the A.C.T. “Search for Talent” as a budding singer. The world can be thankful that nothing came of this career!

Living in Holden was great as a kid; being involved in skating, hockey, Brownies, Guides, etc. I loved it.

My father, Chester died in 1973, and my mother, Barbara resides in Calgary, and is employed as Administrative Assistant for Three Hundred Drilling Ltd.

Jack Wright resides in Edmonton, and is an active participant of The Pax Natura Society.

I, Laura married Randy, son of Steve and Angeline Tomko, in 1976 and we reside on an acreage south of Bon Accord, Alberta. I am employed as a para-legal with Zariski, Kramer, Kosak of Edmonton, Alberta. Randy is employed as an electrical designer with Alberta Power Ltd.

Wynnyk, John

John Wynnyk was born in 1897, in the village of Galicia in Austria. He came to Canada in 1903 with his parents Roman and Eva and three brothers. The two week trip from Austria brought them to Halifax. From Halifax the family came to Strathcona.

In the spring of 1904 a homestead was purchased between Holden and Daysland for the going price of \$10.00. It is here that the family cleared a patch of land, cut logs and built a crude log house. They purchased a couple of cows and oxen, and were able to seed three acres in crop.

More land was purchased in 1913. John farmed this land with his father and brother for seven years. From 1920-1922 John worked for the C.P.R. in Daysland. He then returned to farming.

In 1934, John married Rose Kiziak of Vermilion. Together they farmed until 1945. At this time they purchased the Daysland Grocery Store from William Hryciuk and moved to Daysland with John’s parents and two children, Peter and Orest.

They operated the business for twenty five years after which time they retired and at the time of writing are living in Daysland.

The boys attended school in Daysland until high school. At this time Peter left home and went to Yorkton, Saskatchewan to complete his education. In 1954, Peter attended a summer session in Manitoba and in September went to Manigotogan, Manitoba where he spent one year teaching the Metis. Returning from Manitoba, Peter attended Teachers’ College in Saskatoon. Upon completion of College Peter’s first year of teaching in Alberta was Heisler. He then returned to Daysland where he is presently teaching.

In 1961 he married Vera Shott of Daysland. They had four children, Maurice, Desiree (deceased in infancy), Cynthia and Crystal.

Orest, after finishing school, operated the store with his parents. After leaving the business, he attended N.A.I.T. After which he worked in Drumheller and Lethbridge. Later he was employed by Lakeland College in Vermilion, and presently is employed as a butcher in Vermilion. He married Ama Kolenowski of Viking in 1968, and they have two children, Adrian and James.

Wynnyk, John and Mary by Michael (Mike) Wynnyk

My dad, John Wynnyk came to Canada in the spring of 1904 from the village of Radwanci, district Sokal, Western Ukraine, which was under the Austrian rule at the time. He filed on the N.E.-22-47-16. He worked part time on his homestead improving the land, and part time on the railway around Calgary, Medicine Hat and Wetaskiwin.

In 1907 his wife Mary, two daughters, Annie and Nancy, and his son Michael arrived in Canada. This family, the same as many others who came to this country at the beginning of the century, suffered many hardships and met with many disappointments. Life in the early days was not easy. Only those that lived through those years can fully understand what the early pioneers endured to make this country what it is today.

John and Mary raised a family of five children: Annie, Nancy, Michael, Steve and Pauline.

Annie married Basil Twerdohlib. In 1930 the family moved to Iron River, Alberta where they made their home. Annie passed away in 1935, and her husband Basil in 1953.

Nancy lived in Saskatchewan and Manitoba for a number of years. She then moved to Edmonton. In 1945 she moved to Vancouver where she resided until her passing in 1969.

Steve was born in 1909, and resided all his life in the Sandstorm community. He passed away in 1933.

Michael — (see Michael Wynnyk story).

Pauline attended Sandstorm School. After completing High School in Holden, she attended Camrose Normal School. While teaching school near Hay Lakes, she met and married William Maruschak. She continued teaching during the war years and in 1946 resigned from her teaching position to become a “full-time housewife”.

In 1960 her husband passed away suddenly from a heart attack. A year later Pauline accepted a teaching position at Hay Lakes, a position she held until 1978, when she retired from teaching, continuing to live on her farm near Hay Lakes.

Pauline and William had two children, Kenneth and Elaine. They both are married and live in the Hay Lakes community.

John and Mary lived on their original homestead in the Sandstorm district all their lives while in Canada. John passed away in 1935, and Mary passed away in 1943. They were both buried in the Kopernick Cemetery.

Wynnyk, Joseph and Mabel

Mabel, daughter of Prokop and Mary Faryna, married Joseph Wynnyk, an ex-R.C.A.F. serviceman, in 1948.

Mabel worked for a short time at Blake Bros. Hotel and then clerked at T. A. Liden's Store from 1945-1950. She and her husband lived and worked on a farm owned by Maurice Van Ruskenveld from 1948-1956, where two of their children, James and Linda, were born.

In 1956 they moved to Edmonton. Mabel continued to clerk in stores in Edmonton for many years



Mabel and Joe Wynnyk and family.

and at present is employed at Speedway Value Drug Mart. Her husband is employed by the separate school board.

Jim, their eldest son, married to Annette Guindan, lives in St. Albert. He is Buyer Analyst for A.G.T. They have two children, Gregory and Rochelle.

Linda worked for Edmonton Telephones until her marriage to Eugene Dzugan. They live in Edmonton where her husband is employed by the City as Director of Loss Control Services. They have three daughters, Christina, Laura and Kathy.

Patrick, their youngest son, is employed by Perry-Sun of Canada Ltd. as senior engineer and lives at home.

Wynnyk, Michael (Mike)

Michael Wynnyk, known to most people as “Mike,” was born in 1903, in the village of Radwan-ci, district Sokal, Western Ukraine.

In 1907, Michael, his mother and two sisters arrived in Canada. His father came in the spring of 1904.

Michael grew up on the family homestead NE-22-47-16 and lived there the greater part of his life. He recalls many things that took place during his younger years. Clearing land was done by axe and buck-saw. Stumps were pulled by oxen or horses. Some trees were trimmed for firewood, and the trimmings and brush were piled and later burnt. The land was then plowed, the roots hand-picked and the land prepared for seeding.

First harvesting was done with a scythe. Then came the horse drawn binder, which was a great improvement. The threshing machine progressed from the small hand fed separator powered by a stationary engine, to the large separators powered by

steam engines and later gas powered tractors. Now harvesting is done with combines.

Wood and coal was used for cooking as well as heating the home. Houses and other buildings were made of logs, plastered with clay and some of them had straw-thatched roofs. Later lumber and shingles were used to build homes.

Money was scarce and strict economy was practiced. People bought just the bare necessities. They lived mostly off the land.

Those that lived during the depression will always remember those years. Between 1926 and 1930 farmers bought tractors, trucks and other farm machinery on credit. The price of wheat fluctuated greatly. By expanding the acreage the farmers hoped to make a better living, so they went into debt. By 1930 the price of wheat went down below the cost of production, as did the price of beef and pork. Unemployment was critical and money was scarce. Men rode the freights looking for work.

The thirties were also years of drought and dust storms. Ditches became filled with the best soil of the land.

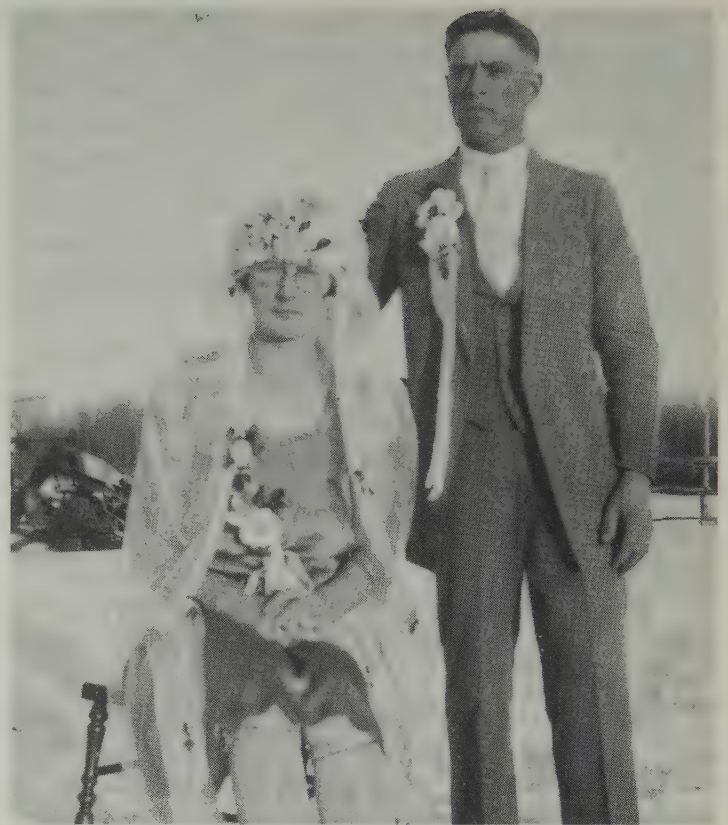
The first post office and grocery store in the area was Quarrel. It was about six miles south from where the Wynnyks lived. It was owned and operated by John Brown. What could not be bought at Quarrel, was purchased at Daysland. After Holden was established, Wynnyks did most of their shopping there.

In 1934 Michael married Steva Hanasyk of Derwent, Alberta. They had one child, Elsie. During the mid forties the family moved to the village of Holden where they resided for a few years. Later the family moved to Edmonton where Michael was employed by the city until his retirement. At present he resides in Edmonton. Steva passed away in 1963.

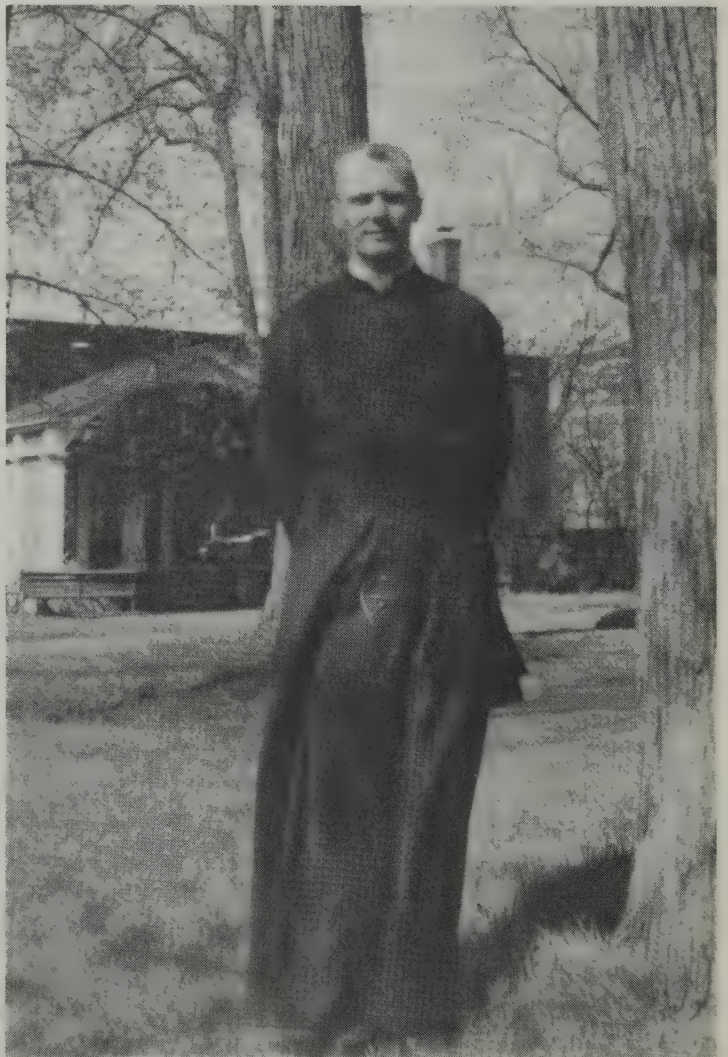
Their daughter Elsie married Harold William Spinks of Edmonton. They have three children, Terrence, Vicki and William. Terrence married Gayle Calvert and they have one son Dale.

Yarema, Harry and Katherine by Julian and Eugene Yarema

Harry was born in Tarhanovich, Ukraine in 1902. Deceased in 1965, he was the son of John and Anna Yarema (nee Ficaak) of the Ukraine. Harry immigrated to Canada in about 1925. He came to Holden and worked and lived with Bill (B.J.) and Anne Rurka. In 1927, Harry married Katherine, daughter of Roman and Anastasia Zuzak. Harry and Katherine lived with Katherine's father Roman (mother deceased) on the Zuzak homestead and later took over the farming operation. Harry and Katherine did mixed farming. They cultivated the land by horses until about 1947. For necessities and mail, they trav-



Katherine and Harry Yarema.



Father Edward Yarema.



Peter, Dorothy, Eugene and Julian Yarema.

elled to Holden. Harry and Katherine were dedicated to their Catholic faith and attended the Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church of Kopernick, and travelled by horse and buggy. Christmas was celebrated by having all the traditional Ukrainian dishes for the family and neighbors. Hay was thrown under the table and spread over the floor.

Harry and Katherine had four sons and one daughter: Father Edward, Julian, Eugene, Peter and Dorothy. Father Edward served the Toronto diocese and is stationed in Sydney, Nova Scotia at the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Eugene and Irene Yarema.

Julian was born in Holden in 1929. He attended Polska, Reward School, St. Joseph's College in Yorkton and lastly Holden School. Julian is mixed farming on his parents' homestead.



Sonia Yarema.

Eugene was born in Holden in 1932. He attended Polska School and later Reward. In 1958, Eugene married Irene, daughter of Steve and Anastasia Bilyk (nee Chorney) of Daysland. They are mixed farming on their father's homestead, with Julian. Eugene and Irene have one daughter, Sonia. Sonia completed her high school in Holden and plans to work.

Peter married Barbara, daughter of Howard and Margaret Reid of Rivercourse. They reside in Edmonton and have two sons and two daughters; Paul, Greg, Theresa and Maria. Peter works for the City of Edmonton.

Dorothy has one son Mark, and resides in Burnaby, B.C. She is a lab. technician teacher.

Young, James Arthur by Jim Young

I was born in Edmonton where I lived for eighteen years. I joined the army in 1962 and was posted to New Brunswick, Kingston, Ontario and Wainwright, Alberta.

Anna Mae Elenor Gilbertson was born in Viking and raised in Wainwright where we met and married in 1965.

We were posted overseas in Germany in 1965. Shannon was born in 1967. I was released and sent back to Canada in 1968 where I worked at Union Tractor in Edmonton as a licensed diesel mechanic. Donald was born in 1970.

In 1974 we bought P. D. Faryna's farm, north of Holden. I farmed and worked out until 1978 when I built a hog barn and began raising hogs.



Jim and Anna Mae Young.



Shannon and Donald Young.

Zawalek, Steve and Mary

The year was 1926, a fine spring day in April, when the C.N.R. Continental arrived at the Holden station. On this train was a young man who would spend his entire life in the Holden area. He was Steve Zawalek, arriving from Ukraine, into a strange country, where he hardly knew anyone, nor could he understand the English language. His only brother Alex, who had made Holden his home for several



Steve Zawalek.

years, and his cousin Mike Pastuzyk, greeted him on his arrival. It was with the Pastuzyk family several miles south of Holden that Steve would make his home. Times were difficult, jobs weren't available and money was scarce. Many times he wished he could return to his homeland.

Early in 1927, Steve became employed with the C.N.R. working at Lindbrook and surrounding districts. Later he obtained a permanent C.N.R. position at Holden. He moved into the village and resided in the C.N.R. house, along with George Carter, who was also a company employee at the time.

During the 1930's Steve purchased the Oscar Koetke farm, formerly the George Maruszczyk residence, just southwest of Holden. This was where Steve made his home, renting out the land and continuing his employment with the C.N.R. a position he held for twenty seven years.

In 1938, a young lady, Mary Stewart, immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine. She had come to stay with her aunt and uncle, the Joe Stewarts, near Vegreville. In the fall of 1941 she became the bride of Steve Zawalek, and moved to Holden to reside at their farm. To this union were born two children; Sylvia (Piwowar), who presently resides at Viking, and Eugene, who lives at Sherwood Park.

The Zawaleks continued with their farming, raising some farm stock as well as some very fine flocks of turkeys. These birds presented quite a chore at butchering time. This was when good friends and neighbors willingly gave a helping hand, and in a matter of several days the job would be completed.

In 1954, a bad attack of arthritis forced Steve to retire from his employment. His better days were

spent assisting with the farm chores. He passed away in April 1978, exactly fifty two years after his arrival in Holden.

Mary continues to reside at the same farm and enjoys her gardening, handicrafts and raising her plants.

It is to these kind of people, hard working people with courage, that we owe the progress Alberta has made.

Zimenik, Nancy

Story by Nick Laskoski

Mrs. Nancy Zimenik was the most popular mid-wife and self-trained doctor in the district. She brought all of Nancy Laskoski's children into the world and doctored them all. She lived one mile east of Nick Laskoski's place. Thanks Granny.



Nancy Zeminek with granddaughters, Frances and Helen.

Zieminek, Stanislaw and Mary Anna

Stanislaw (Stanley) and Mary Anna (Babiash), and Stanley's father John, and stepmother Mary, came to Canada in 1903. They homesteaded six miles south of Holden. Stanley and Mary Anna had a family of thirteen children; Philip, John, Katherine, Rosie, Victoria, Josephine, Peter, Frances, Louis, Helen, Henry, Mike and Edward.

Philip born in 1903, died in infancy and was buried at the Duhamel Cemetery.

In 1904, John was born. He liked hunting and breaking horses. In 1934 he passed away from arthritis and is buried in the Polska Cemetery.

Their next child was a girl Katherine, born in 1906. She worked at the Holden Hotel for a number of years. Katherine married Anthony (Tony)

Maschke in 1925. To this union four children were born. They farmed most of their lives nine miles east of Heisler. Katherine and Tony are both deceased.

Rosie was born in 1907. She lived at home until her marriage to George Pulay in 1924. Rosie and George lived at Bashaw and later settled at Rocky Mountain House where they lived until their passing. They had a family of nine children, who were known for their musical talents.

Victoria was born in 1909. She married Steven Fillinger and lived for a number of years at Bashaw, then moved to Rocky Mountain House. They had five children. Victoria and Steven are both deceased.

In 1912, Stanley and Mary Anna moved back to the Aberdine, Washington area. In this year Josephine was born, the only child of this family to be born in the States. Stanley and his family moved back to the Holden area. When Josephine was about fifteen she left home and worked for her sisters. Here she met Frank Maschke, and they married in 1929. To this union six children were born. Frank farmed ten miles east of Heisler until his passing. Josephine still resides there.

Peter was born in 1915. As a young man he left home to join the army and was stationed in Alberta. After his army service he worked in the Mercoal coal mines. He married Violet Kresater in 1945. To this union one son was born. Peter also worked at Jasper National Park as a warden, until his retirement.

Frances was born in 1916. At the time of her marriage to Andrew Ewanick, she moved to Colinton. To this union two children were born. After Andrew's death, Frances moved to Thorhild, where she still resides.

Louis was born in 1918. He left home to serve in the army and was stationed in Alberta. After leaving the army, he worked for the C.N.R. as a repair man on the rails. He is now retired and living in Bruce, Alberta. Louis is a carpenter of the family and is remodelling his home. He never married.

Helen, born in 1919, lived at home until she left with her grandmother Mary to live with her sister Victoria at Bashaw. Helen married Louis Fillinger, and to this union eight children were born. They lived most of their lives at Bashaw, moving to Ponoka when their son took over the farm.

Stanley's next son Henry was born in 1921 and died in infancy. He is buried in the Polska Cemetery.

Mike was born in 1923. He farmed the family farm south of Holden for a number of years until his marriage. He married Bernice Mizera and to this union three children were born. Mike and Bernice moved to their own farm four miles south of Bruce. Due to health reasons he sold his farm and moved to Viking where both he and Bernice work.

Edward was born in 1924. He left home to join the army and was stationed in Holland, Belgium, Germany and England. Edward married Nora Marks in 1951, and they had one son.

Mary Anna Zieminek died in Oct. 1924, two weeks after Edward's birth. After Mary Anna's death Stanley's stepmother Mary, then a widow, moved into the two room family house to help raise the eleven surviving children. The one thing Mary's grandchildren remember her for is her rice pudding with raisins.

All the children went to Scona School where some of the younger ones were taught by Frank Congdon. They also attended Polska Church, then known as Kopernick.

Stanley's stepmother Mary passed away in 1924 at Rocky Mountain House. Stanley passed away in 1940 and is buried at the Polska Cemetery beside his wife Mary Anna.

Zoroslak and Haraysm Families

Steve Zoroslak immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1903. He and his wife lived in Edmonton and had three children, Sadie, Sophie and Pete. In 1907, Mrs. Zoroslak (Pearl) passed away. Steve then placed the children in private homes while he worked to support them. The children were separated at this time, as no place could be found to keep them together.

At about this time, Elef Haraysm and his wife farmed in the Reward district (N.W.2-47-16-W4). In about 1910, the Haraysm's adopted Sophie Zoroslak, who was five years old at the time. In 1913, Mr. Haraysm passed away. His widow then married Steve Zoroslak in 1914. This reunited the Zoroslak children, Sadie, Sophie and Pete.

Steve Zoroslak passed away in 1939, and Mrs. Zoroslak (Haraysm) in 1942.

Sadie married and moved to the U.S.A. in the early 1920's. All contact with her has been lost.

Sophie married Mike Willisko. (Story elsewhere in this book.)

Pete married Nancy Agustinovich. They had two children, Wilfred and Gayle. Both Pete and Nancy have passed away.

Zowtuk, Michael, Mary and family by Michael N. Zowtuk

I was born in 1925. I attended Holmdene public school in the 30's and high school in Holden in the 40's. After completing high school, I stayed at home with my parents to help with their mixed farming operation. I began to realize that this wasn't all that I wanted to do with my life. My dream was to be an auctioneer. I wanted to make my dream come true so



Mike and Mary Zowtuk.

I began by selling girl's lunch baskets in school and chicken's eggs to the old hens in the chicken house. I realized I couldn't obtain a diploma in this manner, therefore, I asked my parents if they would allow me to further my education as an auctioneer. They allowed me the privilege, so then in the fall of 1945, I attended auction school in Calgary. The course lasted six months under the supervision of Henry Gilchrist. The tuition fee for the course was \$450.00 which did not include room and board. We had voice training every day except for the two days that we spent attending law school. Mr. Gilchrist afforded us with the opportunity to sell furniture sales downtown. In March and April of 1945, prior to my coming home, Mr. Gilchrist had me assist him sell 27 actual sales (mostly farm machinery sales — 5 of which were purebred cattle sales).

My first auction sale was just 2 miles north of Holden for a very prominent citizen by the name of Phillip Mykytuk. I will always remember how my legs trembled because I was in my own neighborhood. I'm sure they said to one another, "Give him a few years and he'll quit". To those people that may have misjudged my persistence at that time — I'm sure they'll now agree that after 37 years service in the auction business, that I was quite serious in my endeavors to become an auctioneer.

AUCTION SALE

HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM

PHILLIP MYKYTIUK

who is retiring from farming, the undersigned auctioneer will sell by Public Auction on the North-East Quarter of Section 27, Township 49, Range 16, West of the 4th Meridian, situated on the main road one and one-half miles north of

HOLDEN

WED., JULY 17TH, 1946

Commencing at 1:00 p.m. Sharp

23 CATTLE

10 HEAD OF MILK COWS:

- 3 yrs. old Red Poll Cow, just fresh.
- 5 Yrs. old Red Cow.
- 3 yrs. old Holstein Cow.
- 5 yrs. old Jersey Cow.
- 5 yrs. old Holstein Cow
- 3 yrs. old Jersey Cow.
- 3 yrs. old Holstein Cow.
- 5 yrs. old Holstein Cow, T.B. Tested.
- 5 yrs. old White Face Cow.
- 3 yrs. old Cow.
- 2 yrs. old Holstein Cow.

Note: These cows are all heavy producers and are now milking.

6 Yearling Heifers.

- Heifer, 1½ yrs. old, due to freshen in Dec.
- Hereford Heifer, 3 yrs. old.
- Bull, 1½ yrs. old.
- 2 Calves.

HORSES

- 8 Head of Horses, Well Broke and Gentle.
- Bay Mare, 6 yrs. old.
- Grey Mare, 8 yrs. old
- Black Mare, 5 yrs. old
- Black Mare, 3 yrs. old.
- Black Mare, 4 yrs. old.
- Bay Mare, 4 yrs. old.
- Black Gelding, 4 yrs. old.
- 1 Saddle Pony.

MACHINERY

- McCormick-D 15-30 Tractor (excellent condition, motor overhauled last fall).
- 1928 M-H Wallis Tractor (good condition).
- 1935 Chev. 4-Door Sedan Master De-Luxe (good rubber).
- 8-ft. Cockshutt Single Disc.
- 8 ft. McCormick-D Single Disc.
- 7-ft. John Deere Oil-bath Binder.
- 20-run Cockshutt Shoe Drill complete with power-lift (practically new).
- 20-run McCormick-D Shoe Drill complete with horse hitch and tractor hitch and new drag chains (practically new).
- 6-ft. McCormick-D Single Disc.
- 8-ft. McCormick-D Single Disc.
- 7-ft. McCormick-D Single Disc
- Hero Fanning Mill.
- Smut Treater, McC.-Drake.
- No. 33M.H. oil-bath Mower.
- No. 2 John Deere Mower.
- 3 Sec. Spring-tooth Harrows.
- 5 Sec. Diamond Harrows and Cart.
- 16-in. Breaker Plow
- 7-ft. M.H. spring-tooth Cultivator
- Hay Buck.
- 2-bot. Cockshutt Horse Plow.
- Sixty bushel capacity Wagon and Box.
- M.H. Running Gear.
- Adams Running Gear and Rack.
- Adams Bob-Sleigh, 2" cast shoe.
- Cutter.
- Master Electric Fencer.
- Singer Patching Machine (good condition).

Household Effects

- 5-tube Addison Radio.
- Maytag Washing Machine (good as new).
- Heater.
- McC.-D. Cream Separator.
- 6-hole Climax Cooking Range.
- Sink, pots and pans.
- White Sewing Machine.
- 2 Gas Lamps. Dresser.
- Kitchen Cabinet, Kitchen Table, Chairs Bath Tub.
- 2 Double Beds and Single Bed, complete with mattresses.
- 5-gal. Cream Can.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Granary, 12x14 (new). 8 tons of Alfalfa Hay
- Quantity of Lumber and building paper.
- 10-ft. Round Water Tank, 3x12 Square Water Tank.
- Large amount of Dry Wood.
- 14-ft. Chain.
- Hog Scale and Crate, Loading Shute, 45 gal. Barrel, 300 ft. of ¾-in pipe, 350 rds. Barb Wire.
- 2 Sets of Breeding Harness (one new).
- 5 sets of plow Harness (all repaired).
- Bridles, line, collars, halter, cow ties, 50-ft. cow chain, 14-ft. logging chain, forks, shovels, post mall, etc., etc.
- 40 bushels Barley.
- 25 bushels Alfalfa chop.
- Brood Sow and 10 pigs.
- Reg. Boar-pig, year old.
- Note: The above is a good listing of farm machinery, it having had the best of care, and some of it as good as new.
- Milk cows freshened not long ago and are heavy producers. Mr. Mykytiuk if retiring from farming and everything will be sold.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY. REMEMBER THE DATE, PLACE AND TIME.

LUNCH AT NOON Bring Your Own Drinking Cups

TERMS OF SALE CASH

ALL SETTLEMENTS PAYABLE ON DAY OF SALE.

Michael N. Zowtuk Auctioneer

HOLDEN

Member Alberta Auctioneers' Association.

License No. 179-46-47

Zane Blake, Holden, Clerk of Sale



Mike Zowtuk's first sale.

I was married to Mary Irene Faryna in 1948. Mary is the oldest daughter of Peter and Nancy Faryna. My wife, Mary, and I lived with my parents in their new home. We farmed with my parents for 10 years. In 1958 we purchased our own farm 3 miles north of Holden, known as the Dr. Farrel farm. Through the years of our marriage, I continued to farm and sell. For several years I had an auction business of my own, sold with Gordon Stalker of Viking, then joined John A. Giebelhaus in 1960, a long time resident auctioneer and councillor in the Holden area. After J. A. Giebelhaus's retirement, I again sold alone until I met Russ Sheets and Dave Hutchinson.

Considering that I was a very busy person selling these sales all by myself, as many as thirty or forty in the spring of the year, I had decided that I should get some help. Russ Sheets was a licensed auctioneer.



Marcel, Ronald, Lauritz, Dennis, Mary, Mike, Joyce and Henrietta (Lauritz's wife).

Dave at this time was a beginner, but we all got along very well and decided to go under the name of Zowtuk Sheets Hutchinson Auction Service. I have since added my two sons Lauritz and Marcel to my firm.

Lauritz has been selling at the Edmonton Public Stockyards for five years as well as with us. He is now employed full-time with our firm.

I would also like to take this opportunity to talk about a very special lady that did partake in the auction business so much, and that is my wife Mary. Many days and late nights she spent delivering sale posters and taking care of the advertising. Her pleasant disposition kept up our morale; without her, this business of auctioneering wouldn't have been so enjoyable. Mary, who has been a part of this auction business for 37 years, enjoys it immensely and plans to continue.

After forty years farming, 37 years in the auction business and 35 years of marriage, we have the

following children: Joyce, Lauritz, Dennis, Marcel and Ronald.

Joyce is living and working in Vegreville and has two children namely, Charlene and Melinda attending junior high school.

Lauritz is married to Henriette Tropak. They have three children, Troy and Tammy attending school in Holden, Stacey still at home. Lauritz is with our auction company and farms northeast of Holden.

Dennis married Collette Chamulke. They have two children, Amber and Kristy. Collette, employed by the Vegreville Health Unit, works in the Holden office. Dennis is farming full time northeast of Holden.

Marcel married Tina Malick. They are living on a farm five miles north of Holden with their two boys, Chad and Aaron. Marcel, employed by Voyageur Petroleum, also helps out with the farming as well as auctioneering part-time.

Ronald lives at home and enjoys helping with our farming operation.

Zowtuk, Nick and Annie

by M. N. Zowtuk

My father, Nick, bought his first quarter of land in 1922, farmed it with horses before his marriage to Annie Bednarski. Later, he purchased another quarter of land just east of the quarter section that he was living on. A few years he moved to the east farm because there was a drilled well. The east quarter section was purchased from Karl Rozma, a friend of my father's. Karl Rozma and my father met in British Columbia when they were both employed by the C.N.R. After Karl sold his land to my father, he stayed with my parents as their hired hand. He remained their hired hand until 1966.

In 1946, my parents built a new house. Times had certainly improved. This new home was a large two storey house and was enjoyed by all. Our old home was merely a two room house that housed my parents



Nick Zowtiuk.



Annie Zowtiuk.

and their five children: Michael (myself), Peter, Estella, Mary and Susan.

My brother Peter (Pat), left home early to attend school in Edmonton and later entered the oil field business. He worked for Imperial Oil for many years before forming his own business. Galaxy Oil Field Service, as it exists today, has offices in Edmonton, Calgary and Montana. Pat makes his home in Victoria, B.C. His children are: Danny, Dawn, Cathy and Barton. Danny lives in Edmonton. Dawn lives in Toronto, Ontario and has one child named Zingharo. Cathy is married, lives in Edmonton and has one daughter, Andrea.

Estella married Harry Pozerniuk. They farm southwest of Holden. Of this marriage two sons were born. Wayne lives and works at the home of his father on their farm. Brian, married to Kathy Bruce, works in Edmonton as a sheet metal tradesman. Grandparents Pozerniuk enjoy their grandchildren Shawn and Shelley, born to Brian and Kathy.

Mary married Ed Goshko and are living and working in Edmonton. Of this marriage three children were born. Sharon married Gary DesLaurier. They also live and work in Edmonton. Richard lives in Edmonton with his parents and works as a mechanic. Douglas lives at home where he is continuing his schooling.

Susan, the youngest of our family, married Eugene Ewasiuk. They own and operate a broiler farm on the southern outskirts of Holden. As well, they grain farm. Their children are: Janice, Blair, Karen and Darlene. Janice is married to David Gabrysh. They live in Vegreville and are the proud parents of one son, Curtis. Blair works with his parents on the broiler and farming operation. He is completing his grade 12. Karen and Darlene live at home; Karen completing her high school education at Holden High School and Darlene, being in just grade 3, will keep her parents busy for quite a few more years.

Zuk, Nick **by Allan Zuk**

Nick was born in Mundare in 1913. He was one of a family of eleven children born to Harry and Anne Zuk, who farmed eleven miles south of Mundare.

Nick married Rosie, youngest daughter of Anton and Katherine Kolodychuk of Haight district in 1940. They took up farming on N.W. ¼ 9-51-16-W4. Nick and Rosie had two sons, Larry and Allan. Larry was born in 1941, and is now residing in Sherwood Park. Allan was born in 1947, and is now residing in Kamloops, B.C. Allan married Janis, daughter of Clarence and Jessie Arneson of the Rivercourse district in 1973. They have one son Kevin, born in 1975.

Nick was predeceased by his wife Rosie in Octo-



Nick and Rosie Zuk, 1940.

ber 1966. Nick then moved to Edmonton where he was employed by the Edmonton General Hospital. In 1967 Nick married Rose Bilawey of Vegreville. They were later divorced.

In 1978 Nick retired and returned to the farm to live with his son, Larry. There he resided until his death in 1979.



Allan, Janis and Kevin Zuk, 1980.

Zuzak, Moses and Mary

by Anne Mielimaka

Moses was born in Sokal, Poland in 1890.

In 1913, at the age of 23, Moses immigrated to Canada in search of a new and richer way of life. His trade as a carpenter had brought him some profit for a number of years.

He lived with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Zuzak, south of Holden for a few years. He was also well known for mending broken or dislocated bones both for humans and animals. He met Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Millian Atamanchuk, and they were married in 1917. Mary was born in Austria in 1902 and came with her parents to Canada as an infant in 1904. She comes from a family of ten.



Mary and Moses Zuzak.

When Moses and Mary got married, they lived with her parents on the farm for one year. Then they bought NE-27-50-16-W4 and built their home. With Moses being a carpenter it didn't take long to build their house, barn and a couple granaries. He even built a buggy and a cutter, a masterpiece he was very proud of. He made the tables and benches for the house and what ever was needed. Their first child was born to them in 1918, a boy Steven, who died during the flu epidemic. Another son, Paul, was born and also died as an infant. Later came a daughter, Anne (me), and two years later another daughter, Pauline, and later one more daughter, Olga. We girls grew up on the farm, took our education in a one room country school of Myroslaw, which was a three

mile walk everyday. There were no buses, just rough trails through the pastures. We took our religion in Borschiw where the sisters from Mundare came and taught. In summer we would go picking many pails of saskatoons, raspberries, strawberries, etc. and Mom would can. Many quarts of vegetables, chicken, beef and pork were also canned, as there were no deep freezers as today.



Mary and Moses Zuzak with their family, Pauline, Anne and Olga.

In the year of 1931 in May, our house burnt down from a chimney fire. We lost most of our belongings and were forced to live in a granary. The depression days were very hard but with a large garden the family always had food. Moses and Mary also raised cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and ducks for their produce. The meals weren't fancy but they were nourishing. They soon built another house of logs, with Moses as carpenter and with the help of the neighbors, the house was finished before the cold weather came. So all in all the life on the farm for Moses and Mary had its trials and tribulations.

In 1944, Anne, their eldest daughter, married Peter Mielimaka. (Their story is elsewhere in the book.) Pauline their second eldest daughter worked in the Camrose hospital. She later got employed and moved to Vancouver where she met Don Collins. They were married in 1948 and were blessed with two children. A girl, Carol Lynn (Mrs. Bill Strachen), has two children and lives in Port Coquitlam, B.C. Their son Clayton is still single and works for his dad. Pauline passed away in 1973. Don still lives in Vancouver. Olga married Ludwig Mielimaka (see Lud. Mielimaka story elsewhere in book).

With the girls all married off, Moses and Mary decided to retire so in 1961 they sold their land to Paul Cheremshynski and bought the Nick Hnybida house in Holden. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1967. Dad passed away in 1971 and is buried in the Holden Cemetery. Mom is still living in her own house and still manages to do some of her house work and enjoys her garden in the summer.

Zuzak, Roman and Anastasia and Family by John Zuzak

Roman (1856-1929) and Anastasia (1869-1926) Zuzak, nee Morron, came to Canada in 1904 from Austria. With them came their first daughter Mary and first son, Andrew. They lived in the Mundare area for three years. Then in 1907, Roman and Anastasia purchased their own homestead twelve miles south of Holden (N.E.-14-47-16).



Anastasia and Roman Zuzak and daughter Mary.

The hard working pioneers were very lonely and isolated. Roman, along with his neighbors, walked to Edmonton (a four day journey) to work, and in return brought back necessities, while Anastasia looked after the family and did chores. They built their house out of logs and clay with a straw roof. Oxen, and later horses were used to clear away bush for cultivating new land. A barn and chicken coop were built later. They had a mixed farm, and raised grain, chickens, geese, pigs, cows and horses. Travelling was done at first on foot and later by horse and



John, Annie, Tatiyana and Pearl Zuzak, Katherine and her husband Harry Yarema.

buggy. When Quarrel was established, Roman and Anastasia received their mail and picked up their necessities there. They were very religious and therefore attended the Ascension Ukrainian Catholic Church of Kopernick. Since Christmas was a very great holiday to Roman and Anastasia, they celebrated by having all the traditional dishes for Ukrainian Christmas Eve for the family and neighbors. Hay was thrown under the table and spread over the floor. Everyone attended the Christmas Mass.

Roman and Anastasia had three sons and five daughters; Mary (now deceased) was married to Sam Condro of Holden. Mary and Sam resided in Holden and later moved to Chicago, Illinois. Their children are Bill, Walter, Anne, Jessie, Francis, Alice and Elizabeth. Andrew (1896-1923) and Paul (1904-1921) passed away at a young age. Katherine (1907-1967) married Harry Yarema of Holden (see Yarema story). Sister Tatiyana (Tillie) is a nun at Brantford, Ontario.



Paul Zuzak.

I, John, married Josephine Yarmoloy of Mundare and have six children; Angeline, Dwayne, Eugene, Eileen, Melvin and Daniel. Pearl married Peter Sabat and resides in St. Catharines, Ontario. Their two children are Eugene and Lecia. Annie married Sam Truba and they reside in Islington, Ontario. Their three children are Ronnie, Jerry and Michael.



Sister Tatiyana Zuzak.



Josephine and John Zuzak.

I, John, was born in 1912 in Quarrel. I attended Polska School and did mixed farming with my parents, Roman and Anastasia. After my parents' death, I continued to farm on the homestead with my sister, Katherine and her husband, Harry Yarema. In 1945, I purchased my own farm northeast of Holden and

moved there. In 1950, I married Josephine, daughter of Mike and Annie Yarmoloy (nee Atamanchuk) of Mundare. We did mixed farming for about twenty eight years. During our farming years, we also visited our neighbors, especially during the winter months, by horse and sleigh at first, to play cards. Josephine and I celebrated Christmas the traditional Ukrainian way. We also attended church regularly. Then, in about 1971, we moved to Ryley for retirement. I did occasional carpentry work with Watson Construction in Tofield, for a few years.



Angie, Josephine, Melvin, Daniel, Eugene, John and Dwayne.

Josephine and I have a family of six children. Angeline Oldnall (nee Zuzak) is a Purchasing Agent for Crowsnest Resources Ltd. She has one daughter, Cheryl and both reside in Fernie, B.C. Dwayne married Kathy Lebitko and they reside in Edmonton



Eileen Zuzak.

where Dwayne is a construction engineer for Bechtel Canada Ltd. Eugene married Deborah Wasylciw, and they reside in Ranfurly. They have one son, Sheldon. Eugene is a shop foreman for G and S Implements Ltd. in Vegreville. Eileen resides in Viking and has one daughter, Charlene. Melvin resides in Edmonton and is an apprentice sheet metal mechanic for Combustion Engineering Ltd. Daniel married Eileen Chmilar. They reside in Vegreville where Daniel is an Assistant Manager for United Grain Growers Limited.



Zwierschke Brother's rink about 1930.

Zwierschke, Amil and Annie **by Ross Zwierschke**

Sometime in the 1860's Amil Zwierschke's parents with their first daughter, left Germany to come to America. They settled in Pennsylvania where Amil, about the middle of a family of eleven, was born in 1878. When he was four years old the family moved to Forksroad, Ontario. He attended school in the winters and worked in summer. Mr. Zwierschke Sr. was a weaver by trade and any work found by the family helped with their living.



Annie and Amil Zwierschke in the late 20's.

When old enough, Amil bought an apprenticeship to be a barber. When finished, he started a little shop in Foresthill and later a larger one in Carleton Place.

Early in the spring of 1904 he and Miss Annie Ross were married. Their first son, Ross, was born in 1905. In spring of 1908 Amil sold the shop and came west. He was too early to be allowed to settle in the Prince Rupert area so returned to Edmonton, then on to Vegreville, where he worked in Tom Tate's shop. In July Annie and son joined him.

That winter he bought the SE¼ 34-49-15-W4 from Louie Jacobson. He had a 12x24 frame house built, and purchased a team of oxen, a wagon and necessary equipment to sow some crop. In the spring of 1909 he moved his family to his farm and spent the rest of his life there. Two more sons were born, Charles in 1910 and James in 1913.

Many stories were told by the pioneers about oxen and mosquitoes and heel flies. Oxen were replaced by horses, more log buildings were built, land cleared, and the farm progressed. Amil was active in this community serving as councillor twice, finally being reeve of the M.D. of Patricia, in the late 30's. He was a trustee of the newly formed Radio School district in the mid twenties. They transferred from Longridge where the boys had attended school. Charles and Jim finished at Radio School.

In the early days grain was stooked, and threshed when a machine came into the district. Cattle and horses roamed the range and a fast horse was necessary to round them up when wanted. In the late teens and early 20's people started getting cars and roads were improved. Farm buildings were also replaced and improved.

Annie always had an exhibit in the local fair and had lots of ribbons to show for it. People always seemed to have time to be neighbors and visit around in those days. In the fall the prairie chicken and partridge were plentiful with wild ducks in late summer. Rats and weasels were trapped in early winter. Rats brought 8 to 20¢ and weasels 25¢ to a dollar. Rabbits could be caught all winter. Coyotes were plentiful but mostly too smart to be caught.

The boys were active in their district. Ross played the violin and Charlie the guitar for school dances and house parties. In summer baseball and horse-shoes were played. They built a rink with Papa's help beside the well, so evenings and afternoons were hockey time. Many a pail of popcorn disappeared when the gang was all there.

Annie and Amil lived out their lives on their farm to a ripe old age and are laid to rest in the Holden Cemetery.

Zwierschke, Charles

Charles was born on the farm at Holden and received his education in Longridge, Radio and Holden schools.

The Zwierschke brothers were active in sports, made their own skating rink on the farm, and spent every winter on the ice. Charles and Jim were also members of the Gas Line League. In summer it was baseball; and they were members of the Adam's baseball teams.

Charles graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1938. While there he was a member of the school's hockey team, basketball team, and played in the school orchestra.

In 1938 Charles bought the Nordstrom homestead. He married Mary Wyllie who had also attended the School of Agriculture in 1939.

They had three children, Allan, Norma and Donna, who died in her fifth year.

Mary and Charles have been involved in farm organizations and many community projects. They enjoy curling and square dancing. They love farm life and the community they live in.

Allan, after graduating from Holden High School, attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1961-62, and since then has been a part of the family farming operation. He has been active in the 4-H Beef Club for many years, first as a member and then as an assistant leader. He has also enjoyed participating in other community organizations, as a member of the curling club, and as president of the Holden Agricultural Society when the Complex was planned and built. At the present time he is a U.F.A. delegate and a director of the Vegreville Exhibition Association.

In 1969 Allan married Olive Gilpin from Viking. They live on the family farm and Olive teaches high school mathematics in Viking. They are enthusiastically involved in square dancing in their spare time.

Norma became a teacher and taught in Tofield, Viking, Edmonton and Toronto. She married Marvin Westrom and they now reside in Vancouver. Marvin has his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta and teaches at the University of British Columbia.

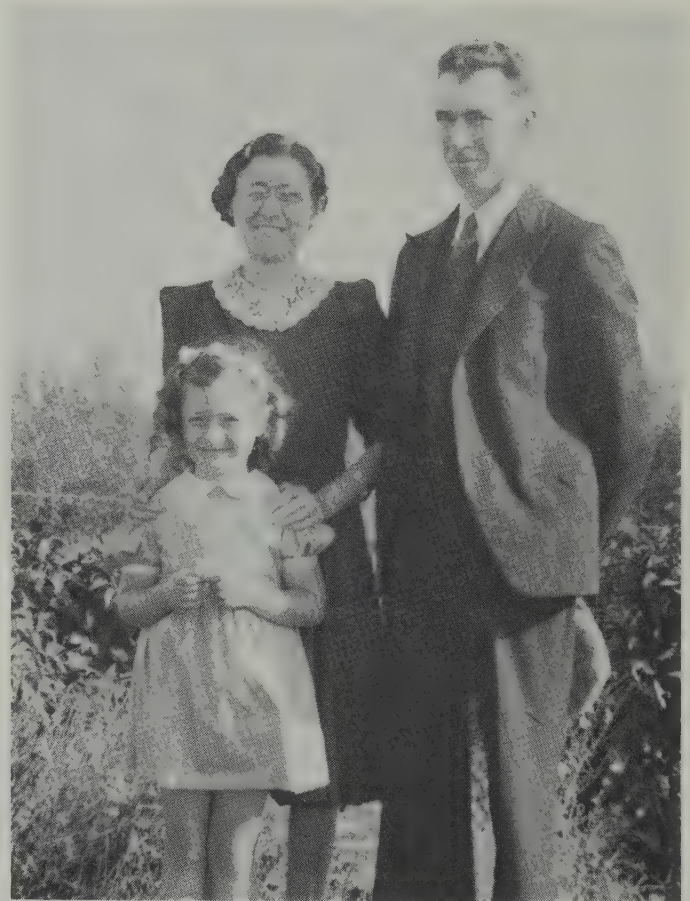
Norma has her A.R.C.T. in Voice from The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and enjoys singing with the Vancouver Bach Choir. They have three children, Nancy, Sarah and David.

Zwierschke, Ross and Margaret

Ross, the son of Amil and Annie Zwierschke, was born in 1905, in Ontario. The family moved to Longridge district east of Holden in 1909. Ross and his brothers ended up riding three in a line on a horse

to get to school at Longridge. After finishing school, he farmed with his family. In 1929 he purchased the S.E. 33-49-15, and began breaking it up. In 1930 he attended Vermilion School of Agriculture, graduating in 1932.

In 1936, Ross and Margaret, the daughter of "Little" John Giebelhaus, were married in the Salem Reformed Church. Margaret, born on the family farm in 1907 was educated at Adams school. She was organist of her church for many years before her marriage.



Margaret and Ross Zwierschke with Lorraine — 1942.

One child, Lorraine, was born in the old R.M.B. hospital in Vegreville in the fall of 1936. She took her elementary school at Longridge, high school in Holden, and graduated from University of Alberta as a teacher. Lorraine taught for three years in Holden, then three more in Ryley.

The Zwierschke family were active in community affairs, Ross being secretary or president of seven different organizations at one time. They were active in the church, travelling the five miles by sleigh in winter, and with horse and buggy in summer. In cold weather, feet were kept warm on a heated stone. Later summer travel was by car. Ross was a deacon for twenty-seven years, and served as chairman of the church board. Margaret was active in her church groups. Margaret became proficient as an oil painter,

taking training from the U. of A. Department of Extension. She loved gardening, producing flowers and fruit.

There were many hardships to overcome in the depression years. There were no cars, electricity, or indoor plumbing. Wood and coal stoves were used for cooking and warmth. Power came to the district in 1951. Eggs were sold as low as 8¢ a dozen and butter at 15¢ a pound. Chicks were raised with clucking hens. Eventually chicks were bought from, and hatching eggs were sold to the hatchery.

Ross loved his animals, and raised cattle and hogs. Later he went into raising purebred Shorthorns and Yorkshire swine, taking prizes for same. He liked building and was a good carpenter. He built all his farm buildings, except the second house. This was built by the Giebelhaus brothers in 1955.

Well remembered are the hailstorms, especially the one in 1947. It took all the crops, leaves, and wrecked many buildings.

Lorraine enjoyed singing as a child, and developed a great talent for music. She studied with Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Smailes. She took theory for several years from Beatrice Crawford in Edmonton. She sang her first solo at church when she was twelve. She still sings for her church and at various functions.

Lorraine was married to Edward Duliba in 1963. She taught for two more years. She chose to be a homemaker rather than teach after the children arrived, Kathie Anne born in 1965, and Sandra Marie in 1968. After living at St. Paul for nine years, they moved to Fort Saskatchewan where the children are attending school.



Apple blossoms in spring.

Mom Moved Today

Mom moved today.
We packed her things
and took her to a suite
where everything
Is up to date and neat.
We tried to sound convincing,
rushed our many pretends:
when we said "It is for the best."
"You will like it; make new friends."

Her fingers trembled as she latched
and locked the familiar door;
her thoughts hemmed in the prairie scene
and all that has gone before.

The little church, the picnic spot,
the country school on grass-clad lot;
the hallowed knoll where dear Dad lies
were mirrored in her aging eyes.

— Joan Hamilton



George and Evelyn Mosby and daughter Linda. refer p. 362.



Pearl Kawalilak age 95 in 1983. refer p. 420.



Mike Motkowski Jr. and Peter Motkowski sawing wood, 1938. refer p. 546.



Pioneer John Kowalchuk and grandson. John is the father of Peter Kowalchuk. refer p. 456.



Harry Bilyk Family. refer p. 222.



Helen Logan, Margaret Kelly, Ruth Chetney, Agnes Tangen, ?, Myrtle Tangen.

Pictures of Interest and Special Events



Mike and John Umrysh digging a passageway to the house through snow bank in 1918.



Snowplow in trouble in Feb. 1957. Peter Ogonoski was operator. Oscar Afseth looking at the snowdrifts.



Holden main street after snow storm in March 1951.



Flooded road near Borschiw Church in April, 1943.



Len and Reuben Laube standing on snowbank after storm in March 1951.



Road building. Esben Sorensen, Tom Chrystian, Paul Christian and Pete Sorensen.



Spring thaw in 1950. Rev. H. Roemer's car stuck in the mud.



Peter Giebelhaus and George Giebelhaus (in truck) hauling iceblocks to Peter's ice house.



Never stuck for need of a pail! John Kabesh and Lawrence Ritland bringing chicken feed home in their pantlegs.



Back Row: George Black, Otto Hurum, Albert Johnson, Barney Hurum. Front Row: Abe Black, Alvin Johnson, and Betsy Johnson.



George Whyte.



Fashions in the early 1900's.



Fashions in the early 1900's.



Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, who ran the store (later owned by T. A. Liden) during the early 1900's.



Mrs. Katherine Dochniak on her 100th birthday, with her eldest grandson Stanley Mizera.



A group of old-timers. L. to R.: Mrs. Harry Bilyk, Mrs. Kalynychuk, Mrs. Slywka, Mrs. Augustynovich, Annie and Nick Puk, Pearl Rudy and Mrs. Komarnisky — 1943.



George and Daisy Mathews.



Felix Slonapas and Sam Miciak, about 1943.



The good old days! Fred and Ida Prozny, Tony and Anne Komarnisky, Helen and Zane Bilyk, Olive and Ernie Good.



Bertha Logan, Oscar Hanson, Julie Logan and Mary Andrews.



Ledingham Hardware Store fire about 1939.



Mrs. Ansteen Tangen, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Stickland, Mrs. Houston, Dorothy Daily, Orville Daily, ?, Houston's neighbour, Annie Stackhouse, Jack Houston.



60 Years Later — Donald Allan, Diamond Grad. of 1923 is presented with a silver spoon by the Student Union President at the University of Alberta '83 Homecoming.



Harry Christian ushering in the Centennial Queen, Mrs. Beth Campbell, 1967.



Lutheran Ladies' Centennial Tea. Evy Grosland, Anna Christensen, Margaret Olsen, Mabel Sizer (Betty Koetke behind), Laura Hulthorn, Laura Christianson, Vernice Grosland, Lillie Grosland, behind is Martha Schwanke, Kathleen Hurum, Erna Christianson, Ethel Brekstad, Irene Olson.



Mary Semotiuk; Colleen Appleby, Princess; Mrs. Beth Campbell, Centennial Queen; Veronica Kaluzny, Princess; John Semotiuk.



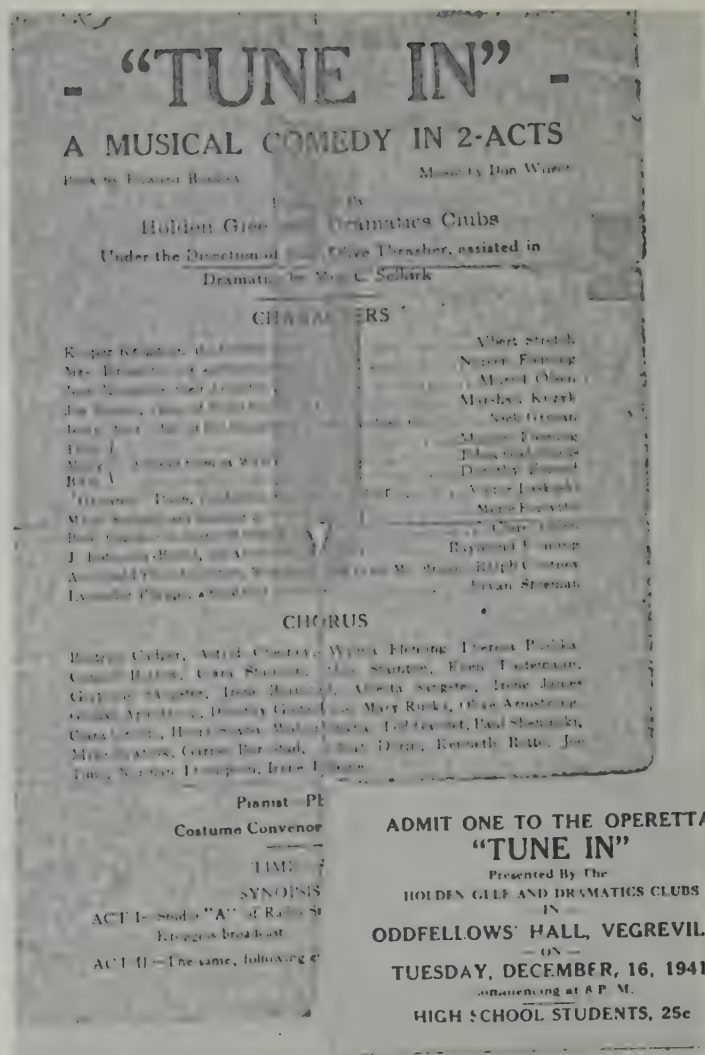
Royal Train at the CN water tank east of Holden — 1939.



C.N.R. Dam under construction, 1929.



Spillway at C.N.R. Dam east of Holden, 1929.

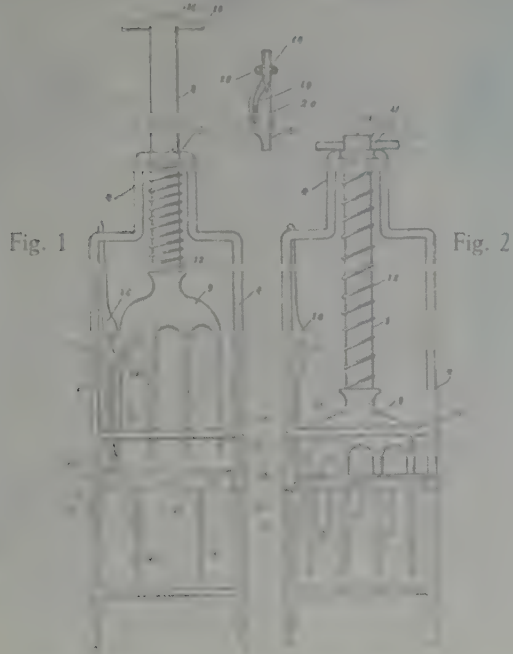


Poster and ticket for musical comedy held in 1941.



Raising dough with doughnuts for the boys' Xmas fund.

CANADIAN PATENT
George Olberg



Mr. George Olberg of Holden, Alberta, claimed ownership in 1922 of an invention which represented a significant breakthrough in the reduction of the rodent population.

This device was to be placed in the animal's runway. A rodent passing through the gate in the lower portion of the device tripped the bars in its way, triggering the spring-loaded fork which tensioned downwardly, driving the fork into the rodent.

No. 255033, Issued October 17, 1922

Patent.



Annabelle Cadger, 1912.



Log barn at Ross Zwierschke farm about 1945. Ross, Lorraine and chickens.



Hauling wood, 1930's. Teamsters are John Albrecht and John Kercher. Wages were \$5.00 per month.



North Star Rangers Band including Pat Fleming and Ron McLeod.



Protection from flies.



Henry Oberg, Joe Alexander and Metro Pooke.



Early Pioneers: Arne Grosland, Lillie Grosland, Albertine and Andrew Olson, Hans Grosland (sitting on chair).



Field Family on a picnic at Beaver Lake.



Gas Line Hockey League.



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Maston, Pioneers in the Palmer area. They lived on N.E. 32-47-16. Sold out in 1919.



Fjellstrom House early 1905-06.



Lila Story, Ellen Tiedemann, Laurretta Keith and Irene James.



Well drilling in the early days.



Taken in Holden Community Hall at Alberta's 75th Anniversary. Standing: Roy and Gladys Seccombe, Orville Daily, Margaret E. (Kennedy) Martin and Norman Parsons. Sitting: Mrs. Peter Bilyk and Mrs. Prokop Faryna.



Erecting a windmill.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Storr. Lived on N.E. 32-47-16, with the Sam Mastons. They were early carpenters in that area.

In Memorium

Since we started this book, some of the people mentioned in the family histories have passed away (April 1982-May 1984). In tribute to these persons we have to the best of our ability, compiled the following list:

Edwin (Ted) Appleby	Darrin Hoynick	Martha Olesek
Venah Appleby	Harry Hrabec	Margaret (Robertson) Olson
Wendy Babie	Martin Hrabec	Karl Otto
Charles Beeken	Helen Jensen	Annie Ozubko
H. S. Beveridge	Katherina Kay	George Petruzzak
Carrie Bratrud	Katie King	Mary Pochynok
James Brown	John Kawililak	Nadia Pooke
Harry Christian	Emily (Laskoski) Kiernan	Rosie Raeder
Pauline Christian	Lorne Kjosness	Edward Ronsko
Bertha Courtney	Mike A. Komarnisky	Wesley Schleuder
Katie (Ronsko) Dolaney	Harry Kozoway	Vera Scott
William Dorin	Paul and Pearl Krysa	Claire Selkirk
Della (Wohl) Earl	Alvin Laibida	Jessie Shanley
Alfred Fjellstrom	Charles Lamb	Jack (Orest) Shyba
Lorne (Bud) Fjellstrom	Myrtle Logan	Mary Shyba
Mary Fjellstrom	Arthur MacDougall	William Shyba
Christian Giebelhaus	Ralph Mason	Beauchamp Starky
Arthur Greenwood	Alex Michalayko	Bertha Steinwand
Ragnhild Hagerud	Annie E. Miller	Dan Stogren
Stella (Mulowka) Hamilton	George Mosby	Mary Stogren
Anna Helmer	Mary Nahirniak	Annie Sturek
Louise Hendel	Steve Nalesnick	Annie (Tchir) Tkaczyk
Mary Henderson	Roy Nichols	Lenard Willans
Mary Hooper	Ida Nord	Charles Zwierschke

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Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Sherburne on the homestead about 1898. Photo courtesy of Provincial Museum and Archives.

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